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Group appeals for release of Omanis

BAHRAIN (AP) — A London-based Islamic human rights group Sannday appealed for help in freeing what it said were more than 200 fundamentalists arrested by authorities in the Sultanate of Oman. Diplomats said earlier the detainees were accused of Oman. Important section and the included were accused or stirring up anti-government agrication. Oman, one of the most politically stable countries in the region, has not officially disclosed politically static countries in the region, has not officially disclosed the arrests, which the diplomats say occurred six weeks ago. The diplomats, who broke the news of the crackdown earlier in the week, said Samrday several of the detainees had been released after they were cleared in the investigatioans. The diplomats had after they were cleared in the investigatioans. The diplomats had no exact figures. A London-based group called Liberty for the Muslim World faxed a copy of an appeal to the Associated Press in Behrain, mainly concerned with one of the detainees, identified as Ahmad Baha' Khayri, an Egyptian professor from the University of Alexandria seconded to the sultanate since 1988. It said Mr. Khayri, who was serving as an assistant professor of production mechanics at Sultan Qaboos University in Oman, was first summoned by Omani police on June 13. It said other, Omani, political activists have been in detention since May 25.

Jordan Tim

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation جوردان تابعز يومية سيَأْتُنِية:تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية والرأى،

Danish minister backs Syrian call

DAMASCUS (AP) - Denmark's foreign minister said Saturday his country supports the principle of a complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights in exchange for a full peace with Syria. Niels Helveg Petersen made his remarks during a meeting with his Syrian counterpart, Farouk Al Sharaa. The Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) reported that the talks "dealt with the latest development of the Middle fort peace process." It attents latest developments of the Middle East peace process." It atressed that the ministers' views were identical on the necessity of a full Israeli pullout from the Golan, Mr. Sharaa reasserted Damascus adherence with the 1991 Madrid conference and U.N. Security Council resolutions. SANA said Saturday's talks also covered ways of improving bilateral relations and Syria's links with the European Union. Mr. Petersen arrived in Damascus Friday on a two-day visit to bolster relations with Syria. His visit also underlines Europe's increasing interest in the Middle East peace

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Crown Prince returns from Turkey

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein re-ceived His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan upon his return from a several-day visit to Turkey. The Crown Prince held talks with Turkish President Suleiman Demirel and explained the central role Jordan plays in the Middle East peace process and the Kingdom's effort to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region. Prince Hassan was also received by His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein. Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker. chief of the Royal Court Acting Prime Minister Thouqan Hindawi and Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, other officials and the Turkish ambassador in

Syria elects new parliament

DAMASCUS (Petra) -Syria's interior minister, Mohammad Harba late Saturday announced the names of the winners in the latest Syrian parliamentary elections. Mr. Harba said that of the 250 elected members of parliament, 127 belonged to the labour sector. He added that the newlyelected members numbered 158 and the winning incumbents numbered 92. He said there were 83 independents elected, and of them, 38 were from the labour sector. Mr. Harba said 24 women were elected to parliamentry seats. hich was an increase of three over the previous legisl-

Settlers scuffle with fence-builders

HEBRON, Occupied West Bank (R) — Troops broke up scuffling on Saturday between Jewish settlers and a group of Israeli, Palestinian and foreign volunteers who were building a fence to pro-tect Palestinians from settler attacks, witnesses said. They said a group of 20 settlers shoved and cursed the dozen volunteers, who said they created the fence between settler and Palestinian homes to protect Palestinians from the stones, petrol bombs, and bricks they said settlers frequently threw at the Palestimians' houses. Troops arrived and ejected both sides from

U.S. to hold talks with Cuba

MARTHA'S VINEYARD Massachusetts (AFP) — The United States is to have immigration discussions with ba next week, a White House official said here Saturday. The talks will be at the mid-level of the administration, said the official, who asked not to be named. (There is) no reason to proceed with high-level talks," added the official. The announcement comes after more than 13,000 Cubans trying to sail to Florida on make-shift boats have been picked up by U.S. Coast Guards this month (see in-

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan's population and welfare minister said on Saturday he was resigning from Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's cabinet to draw attention to alleged human rights abuses in Indian-controlled Kashmir. The private Pakistan Press International (PPI) news agency quoted Julius Satik as telling a seminar on Kashmir in Lahore he was quitting in protest over what he called the indifferent attitude of the United Nations. the United States and other powers over rights abuses in the Indian-held part of Kashmir. Mr. Salik, a Christian who is the only non-Muslim member of Mr. Bhutto's cabinet, said he would carry on as a member of parliament and continue to support the prime minister, PPI said.

Peres: No Lebanon Turkish president due here today deal without Syria

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on Saturday ruled out a separate peace deal with Lebanon, saying Beirut had to wait for a green light

from Damascus.
"Unfortunately I do not believe Lebanon can make peace ahead of Syria, because Lebanon receives its orders from Damascus and has its hands and feet tied." Mr. Peres told military radio. He said Lebanon had sent Israel "polite messages" in

recent months but offered no new initiatives. Uri Lubrani, Israeli coordinator in South Lebanon, said his country insisted on dis-

armament of the Hizboliah group and a guarantee against reprisals on Israelibacked militiamen. Both Israel and Lebanon denied a report in Friday's edition of Yediot Aharonoth newspaper that they had

made secret contacts aimed at holding separate peace negotiations. The paper said the Syrians would "close their eyes" to a Lebanese initiative, which would propose an Israeli withdrawal from its "security

zone" in South Lebanon in

return for a normalisation of

But an Israeli defence ministry spokesman said Friday there had been "no dission between Israel and Lebanon since the last negotiations between the two countries in February, in

Washington, In Beirut, Lebanon's Foreign Minister Fares Boues said the report was a "manoeuvre to divide (Arab) ranks." Mr. Boues added: "The

Lebanese government has chosen the Madrid peace process (launched in 1991) and has no intention of breaking with it, either by secret con-tacts or by public meetings."

Beirut has not held direct talks with the Jewish state since bilateral talks in February, while Damascus has been in contact with Israel through U.S. mediators. Mr. Boues also turned down U.S. President Bill

Clinton's call Wednesday for an immediate end of the Arab economic boycott of Israel, saying it was prema-Any move aimed at lifting

the embargo on Israeli products can only form part of a peace settlement," Mr. Boues said.

"If we really are on the threshold of serious decisions concerning peace, an anti-

cipation of certain aspects ..) in favour of one or other of the parties would not help establish a real and balanced peace," he said.

Syria is the main powerbroker in Lebanon, where it maintains 35,000 troops, and influences its foreign policy.

Lebanon and Syria are the only Arab parties not to have made concrete progress to-wards peace with Israel, unlike Jordan and the Palestinians which have signed preliminary accords.
Hizbollah fighters attacked

two posts manned by militia-men of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) Saturday, provoking artillery fire on villages.

Security sources said the guerrillas fired mortars and rocket-propelled grenades at the SLA positions in Shoumariyeh and Alman in the central sector of the Israeli-occupied "security zone" in South Lebanon at 7 a.m. (0400 GMT).

The sources said there were no known casualties among the guerrillas or the

Hizbollah claimed responsibility for the attacks in a statement issued in Beirut.

(Continued on page 7)

and economically with the countries of the Middle East

AMMAN (J.T.) - Turkish President Suleiman Demirel is due in Amman Sunday on an official one-day visit to Jordan during which he is expected to discuss with His Majesty King Hussein issues of common concern to Jordan and Turkey and developments in the Middle East

peace process.
The Jordan News Agency,
Petra, said the King and Mr.
Demirel will hold a joint press conference at the end of their talks at Raghadan Palace to review the outcome of their discussions. Mr. Demirel's visit comes

close on a meeting which he held in Ankara last week with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who discussed Middle East issues, as well as the situation in the Balkans and Jordan's contributions to the U.N. peace-keeping efforts in former Yugoslavia.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan told Jordan Television that the King and Mr. Demirel



were expected to discuss implementing the decisions which they reached during the King's visit to Ankara last

The two leaders have agreed on upgrading to headgovernment level the chairmanship of the Turkish-Jordanian Joint Committee, Mr. Hassan said.

The two leaders are also expected to sign two agree-



ments on avoiding dual taxation and on investment in either country, Mr. Hassan

Munther Haddadin, head of the Jordanian team to the peace talks with Israel over water issues, told Jordan Television that Turkey represents a bridge between the Western world and Arab countries and its people have much in common historically

"We hope that Turkey wi!" utilise these factors towards maximising regional coopera-tion," Dr. Haddadin and

Turkey is rich with water resources, with the per capital share averaging 4,000 cubic metres ter annually with a per capita need is around 1,400 cubic metres. Hence, Turkey has a surplus in water resources which it could supply the thirsty countries in the region with their needs of water through water projects that are under discussion by the working group on water affairs in the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace process of which Turkey is a member.

Petra said Jordan and Turkey were seeking to increase trade between them and Jordan hopes to export more products to Turkish markets to adjust the balance of trade which is currently in favour of

Bilateral, trilateral talks resume today

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan, Israel and the U.S. will resume their expert-level trilateral and bilateral negotiations here today for two days of follow-up talks on work done by committees.

Alongside these largely technical meetings, the Israeli minister of tourism, Uri Baram, is expected at the Dead Sea Spa Hotel on the Jordanian side to present an overview of the tourism attractions in Israel. He will be accompanied by a number of prominent Israeli tourism

operators. The tourism meetings are a follow-up to a similar trip by the Kingdom's tourism minister, Mohammad Al Adwan, to the Israeli side on July 17 during which Jordanian tour operators also briefed the Israeli tourism sector profes-

The two meetings are expected to lay the ground for a planned joint visit to the U.S. where Jordan and Israel will be looking to sell joint tourism packages to the area.

The two-day meetings,

sionals on Jordan's tourist

starting today, Jordanian negotiators have said, are no expected to produce groundbreaking results but will only serve as a "follow-up on the technical dialogue that was started in the bilaterals at the Moriah Hotel in Israel."

The committees meeting today include the border and territory committee, the security committee, the water, energy and environment committee, the communications and post committee, the Jordan Rift Valley development committee, and the roads and crossing points trilateral economic commit-

The border and territory committee will conclude an Israeli presentation, that began in the Moriah Hotel bilaterals, on Israel's position on this issue. Jordan made its presentation at those talks.

The two-day trilateral talks will be inaugurated by Dr. Fayez Tarawneh, head of the Jordanian negotiating team, Ambassador Rubenstein, head of the Israeli side, and a senior diplomat from the American embassy in Amman.

Two Israelis killed, Hamas claims attack, vows more

in danger," a Jewish resident

GAZA (Agencies) - The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, said Saturday its guerrillas stabbed to death two Israeli construction workers near Tel Aviv, and vowed to strike twice more

by the end of the year. Hamas said in a starement the attack on Friday was in retaliation for the February 25 killing of more than 30 Palestinian worshippers by a Jewish settler in a mosque in the still-occupied West Bank town of Hebron.

"This attack is a response to the Hebron mosque massacre on its six-month anniversary, and we promise the Israeli government two more attacks by the end of the year," Hamas said in a statement faxed to an international news organisation.

A witness to the scene of the attack in the town of Ramle called it "unusually brutal, the throats violently siashed. Police braced for a possible

Israeli backlash in the working-class town. "Any Arab that comes to

told army radio. Hamas, which leads armed opposition to the Israeli-PLO peace deal, said the Israelis were attacked as they were

installing an elevator on the fifth floor of a Ramle build-Our lions stabbed them with knives until they were dead," the statement said. It said they found a cigarette

packet on one of the bodies, and left it on the chest of one of the victims with the inscription: "Hamas secret unit number 19." Hamas said its guerrillas had "reached into the depths they crossed all the roadb-

of the Hebrew state, after locks and Israeli security obstacles," to enter the building near Ramle's central bus After the attack the guerrillas "returned safely to their

bases," the statement said. The attack came at a sensitive juncture in plans to expand Palestinian autonomy, just two days before an early empowerment agreement

was to be signed, giving

Palestinian control over education, health and welfare throughout the West Bank. The leaflet said it was the third act of revenge Hamas carried out for the Hebron massacre and two more would follow before the end of the year. Fourteen Israelis died in two bus bombs in April claimed at the group.

Ibrahimi Mosque where the massacre occurred. The cabinet decided this week to further postpone the opening due to the difficulty in working out security arrangements to keep Jews

The leaflet also warned

and Muslims separate. The two dead men bring to 11 the number of Israelis slain by opponents of the peace talks since the Palestinians took control of the Gaza Strip and Jericho in May. Five died in the areas under Palestinian control. In the same period violence has

claimed the lives of 15 Police made dozens of

(Continued on page 7)

FIS chiefs want talks

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Two Islamic Salvation Front that Israel should reopen the (FIS) leaders called on Algerian authorities Saturday to take steps to involve the outlawed fundamentalist movement in talks on the future of the country.

Speaking a day after the FIS's hardline rivals, the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), announced it had set up an alternative government, Ali Djeddi and Abdul Kader Boukhamkham expressed support for talks between the government and legal opposition parties launched Sunday.

The two men said in an interview with the daily El Hiwar that the dialogue invitation issued by President Liamine Zeroual was "the beginning of hopes which, we trust, will not be dashed."

They demanded that the government call a halt to human rights abuses and allow the country to be ruled by a "legitimate" administration.

The two FIS leaders also asked the authorities to take "practical measures" to allow the participation of the FIS in the dialogue, including lifting the ban on the FIS and releasing its jailed members in prison.

One of those still in prison, the FIS second-in-command, Ali Belhadj, was named a minister in the alternative nine-member government announced by the GIA on With Algerian press com-

ment on the government's formation low-key Saturday, observers noted the timing of the GIA statement was probably a response to the president's invitation to opposition parties to talks. The GIA first announced

its intention to set up a

caliphate government in

The organisation has claimed responsibility for a number of recent attacks against government targets and foreigners. The attacks are part of an

insurgency against Algeria's secular authorities launched (Continued on page 7)

Extremists threaten Cairo conference on population

committee, as well as the

CAIRO (Agencies) — Mus-lim extremists urged fore-igners to stay away from next month's U.N. population conference in Cairo, saying they were "jeopardising themselves" by joining discussions on ammoral sub-

The threat was contained in a fax sent to Western news agencies late Friday by the Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah (Islamic Стоир).

The group has been blamed for a 2-1/2 year campaign of violence aimed at overthrowing Egypt's secular government and replacing it with strict Islamic rule.

On Saturday, police raided an Islamic Group hideout in southern Egypt as part of a broad search for militants who sprayed a tour bus with gunfire a day earlier, killing a 13-year-old Spanish boy and wounding four others (see page 12).
The Interior Ministry, which is responsible for state security, said five extremists and a police colonel were killed in the shootout. A sixth extremist and an Egyptian soldier were wounded, it

The latest violence came less than 10 days before the U.N. International Conference on Population and Development is expected to bring about 15,000 visitors to Egypt.

Government officials have increased security in Cairo in advance of the Sept. 5-13 conference and have expressed hope it will help rebuild Egypt's tourist business, which has been devastated by extremist violence. In its fax, the Islamic

Group warned that "all foreigners who are participating in the licentious conference

... are jeopardising themselves.

It added: "The Islamic Group starts a new stage in its attacks (and) it appeals to all foreigners not to come to Egypt in the coming period to save their souls."

Al Gamaa said in its statement that the forum had been rejected by the Egyptian people and the highest Sunni Muslim authority, Al Azhar. Muslim fundamentalists have said the gathering, which will agree an action plan on population control. would promote extra-marital sex and homosexuality. They also charge it was aimed at

"exterminating Muslims." According to Al Azhar, the draft working document should be revised so that it contains nothing that runs counter to the Islamic law of

(Continued on page 7)

Algeria closes border with Morocco as dispute worsens

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Algeria closed its border with Morocco Saturday in a rapidly escalating dispute following Morocco's arrest of two Algerians reportedly planning attacks on Moroccan banks, security forces and

citizens, Algeria's state-run ENTV announced that the government had "temporarily" closed the long land border, a move that could unravel years of painstaking rapprochement between the his-

toric North African rivals. There was no indication when the frontier would reopen. The closure followed tit-for-tat visa requirements ordered by the two countries following Friday's arrests, and the refusal of Morocco on Saturday to admit about

100 Algerians residing in France. Crowds of Algerians began lining up at Moroccan consulates in Algiers, Oran and Sidi Bel Abbes on Saturday

morning to apply for visas for Morocco, the official Moroccan news agency MAP reported. Moroccan security forces,

meanwhile, kept roadblocks in place throughout the kingdom as the hunt for other members of the gang continued. Morocco has not revealed

the identity or nationalities of the two arrested men but Algerian state radio monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation said they were French nationals of Algerian origin resident in

The dispute followed the killing of two Spanish tourists at a luxury Moroccan hotel during a robbery.

Morocco, blaming the robbery on a gang composed largely of Algerians and Moroccans from France, broke with past practice on Friday and said the more than one million Algerians visiting the kingdom annually

would have to have entry visas from now on. Algeria, which is fighting Muslim fundamentalists who have vowed to set up a purist

Islamic state, responded on Saturday by accusing Moroccan security forces of persecuting Algerian nationals resident in the kingdom.
"Algeria has learned with

astonishment and teprobation reports that Algerian nationals resident in Morocco are subjected to persecutions and excesses on the part of Moroccan security agents," Algeria's official news agency APS said, quoting a foreign

ministry spokesman. The report, monitored in Rabat, said an official protest had been lodged with the Moroccan embassy in Algiers and the Algerian ambassador to Morocco had been instructed to lodge a similar protest against the imposition

(Continued on page 7)

Shaath to sign self-rule expansion accord Monday

GAZA (Agencies) — Senior Palestine Liberation Orga-nisation (PLO) official Nabil Shaath said on Saturday the Israeli-PLO agreement on extending elements of Palestinian self-rule to the rest of the West Bank would be signed on Monday at the

entrance to the Gaza Strip. The signing will pave the way for a new phase in the 11-month-old peace deal between Israel and the Palestimans, giving PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat a long-awaited foothold in the still-occupied West Bank.

Dr. Shaath, speaking after a meeting of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) that administers self-rule, "The Palestinian authority has endorsed the agreement initialled in Alexandria and has authorised me to sign it on Monday at Under the "early

empowerment" accord ham-

mered out in talks in Egypt

and initialled on Wednesday,

Israel will hand over to the

PLO control of education,

health, taxation, tourism,

and social welfare.

Erez, the main entrance to the Gaza Strip, has been the site of recent Israel-PLO

Palestinian sources said chief Israeli negotiator Dan-ny Rothschild, Dr. Shaath's counterpart in the talks, was likely to sign the agreement for the Jewish state. Israeli officials were unavailable for immediate com-

Full implementation of the handover of the five spheres of authority, which began on Wednesday with the beginning of the transfer of education ahead of the school year. will have to wait until foreign donor nations and institutions transfer promised funding to the cash-starved PNA. The Palestinians are eager

early control to move to another phase of the peace deal, a redeployment c. Israeli troops in still-occurred areas of the West Pank to allow for Palestirian elec-Dr. Shaath told reporters that agreements on border

crossings and "safe passages"

for Palestinians travelling

to reach an agreement on

through Israel - thorny elements of the original accord on Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho, details of which were deferred to allow self-rule to begin in May would be implemented immediately after the Monday

agreements on "safe pas-sages" between Gaza and Jericho and the border crossings at the King Hussein Bridge, between Jericho and Jordan, and Rafah, between Gaza and Egypt, Dr. Shaath "All these will be signed

and implementation of this

will begin immediately thereafter," Dr. Shaath said. Israel's police chief said on Israelis by militants near Tel

In Gaza, regional Palestinian police commander. Major-General Abdul Razzak Al Majaydeh, rejected an earlier Israeli army statement

The PNA has approved the

Saturday the killing of two Aviv were a test of joint PLO-Israeli efforts to curb Palestinian guerrilla attacks

(Couthwed on page 7)

U.S. urges citizens to leave Somalia

WASHINGTON (Agencies)
— The United States has urged its nationals to leave Somalia immediately ahead of the withdrawal of U.S. diplomats from Mogadishu by next month.

U.S. citizens presently in Somalia are advised to leave the country immediately, said State Department spokesman Michael McCur-

The 25 diplomats in the U.S. liaison office in Somalia and the 55 Marines stationed there to protect them will have been transferred to Nairobi by Sept. 15, Mr. McCurry said.

Several hundred U.S. civilians currently live in Soma-, with 300 of them working with the U.N. mission in and 50 others with other numanitarian groups, the spokesman said.

Mi McCurry was pessimis-c about the crees for the tic about th tion" in Somalia that vould allow U.S. nationals to resume their work there. I nere are very few signs faction leaders will make the neces-

sary compromises, he said. The United States says it is pulling out due to the lack of progress in the reconciliation process, and the related poor security conditions.

On Thursday, the U.N. Security Council decided to cut the number of U.N. troops in Somalia by 1,500 and did not rule out a total withdrawal if a political settlement were not reached

The decision came after gunmen believed to be members of General Mohammad Farah Aideed's militia massacred seven Indian peacekeepers and wounded nine others Monday.

In a unanimous statement read by Chairman Yuli Vorontsov, the Security Council said the slayings were a "premeditated attack" and members, approved the reduction that will bring the force down to 17,200 men.

Mr. Vorontsov also raised concerns over the lack of progress in peace talks between Somalian clans, stressing that continued international support and the peacekeeping mission was conditioned on reaching a polittical settlement.

Some 18,700 peacekeepers are currently deployed in Somalia under a U.N. mandate that was to expire on September 30 and which sets March 1995 as the date for completion of the mission. The council asked U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali to give them a report by Sept. 30 on prospects for national reconciliation in Somalia and the options for the U.N. force in the country.

The U.S. envoy in Mogadishu Daniel Simpson said on

"We are leaving by the middle of September for two basic reason - the strong feeling Somalis have not made substantial progress towards a settlement and because the security situation just gets worse."

Analysts said the more it would certainly undermine U.N. peacekeeping efforts in

Mr. Simpson noted that more than 20 U.N. peacekeepers had been killed since March 31 when the U.S. and other Western nations pulled out most staff and handed over policing of the volatile country to a U.N. force drawn from Third World countries.

"They (Somali warlords) are prepared to dance for as long as the bar is open and orchestra is playing but ney feel no urgency to reach a settlement. All of us are

pretty sick of it," he added. He said the U.S. liaison office in Mogadishu will move to the Kenyan capital Nairobi

Gone with the Americans will be 80 M-60 tanks, 12 Cobra attack helicopters. armoured personnel carriers (APCs) and water purification tanks.

Political analysts in Nairobi said without the American equipment, the U.N. military muscle in Somalia will be massively weakened. They said the U.S. appeared to be putting pressure on the U.N. to leave Somalia too.

"It's going to be a difficult one for the U.N. to operate without the American equipment, especially the tanks and helicopters. This is certainly U.S. pressure on the U.N. to leave as well," a Western ambassador in Nairobi told Reuters.

Mr. Simpson said the foreign presence in some quarters is viewed as part of Somalia's problem and that an end to foreign involvement may pressure factions into an

"Most of the shooting you now see is outside the port, airport and the UNOSOM compound. They are fighting over contracts and positioning themselves to loot when

the U.N. goes," he said. "I can't imagine anyone is going to hurry back here to deal with Somalia's problems one more time," he added.

Plane skids off runway to rails

ISTANBUL (AFP) - Que hundred and sixty passes ers and crew survived a orush with disaster Saturday when their airliner skidded off the runway. crossed a motorway and ran onto a railway line after landing at Istanbul airport,

The Turkish THY airlines Boeing 737 had flown in from Trabzon with 160 people aboard when its slewed off the runway in rainy conditions after the pilot apparently lost control of the plane, informed

A passenger and an air-hostess were slightly in-jured in the incident, police

Police said a catastrophe was averted because traffic on the motorway was light. Just one driver had to plane. And television images of the incident showed the plane only narrowly missed striking high-tension wires near the airport.



U.N. study proposes major project to develop Gaza fishing industry

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - There is no shortage of fish in the Eastern Mediterranean and it :hould not have been difficult for the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip to make a decent living and engage in a flourishing trade in fish had it not been for the restrictions imposed by the Israeli occupation authorities. Now that the Gaza Strip is

under Palestinian administration, immense potential exists for the residents of the strip to take full advantage of the possibilities available, says a study conducted by a U.N. agency in coordination with the Arab League and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

The study, conducted by the Amman-based Economic and Social Council for Western Asia (ESCWA) in March-April this year, envis-ages about \$10 million in total spending for a project geared to develop the fishing sector in the Gaza Strip.

It involves building facilities such as berthing and unloading quays, auction hall, slipways, workshops and stores for fishermen at Gaza in addition to fishing shelters at Deir Al Balah, Khan Younis and Rafah.

In addition, the project proposed by the study includes setting up a government fisheries service, training, follow-up activities, etc.

as well as setting up a revolv-ing fund to help fishermen. The study reports that in 1976, total fishing output at Gaza was nearly 5,000 tonnes, but it plunged to 1,000 tonnes in 1991-92 as a result of Israeli restrictions on fishermen putting out to sea in the wake of the Palestinian uprising which began in December 1989.

The Israeli administration in the Gaza Strip ... restricted the fishing operations along the Gaza Coast," said the "The fishermen are not allowed to fish near the Egyptian or the Israeli borders. They must remain at a distance of five kilometres from either border. Moreover, they are not allowed to fish opposite the Israeli settlements established in the Gaza Strip during the Israeli occupation.

One of the main tactics used by Israel until the Israel-Palestine Liberation Orgamisation (PLO) autonomy accord took effect in May this year was a blanket order against Gazan fishermen putting out to sea whenever there was an anti-Israeli attack in the Strip. "The imposition of heavy on the fishermen and boats by the Israeli administration made the life of the Palestinian fishermen intolerable, and forced some of them to drift away from fisheries and to look for another profession," said the study.

taxes, fines and licence fees

The study, a copy of which made available to the Jordan Times, found that about 2,500 Gazans were employed in the fishing sector with 748 boats of various sizes. Among the fish available

off the 45-kilometre Gazan coast are mullets, mackerel, sardine, sea bass, salema, saddle bream, sole fish, shark, shrimp and cuttle fish. Wholesale price of "good

quality" varieties such as red mullets, groupers and breams ranges between \$10 and \$25 per kilogramme, shrimps \$25 and \$30, and sardines 50 cents and \$2.5 per kilogramme, the study found. Auctioneers receive a five

per cent commission from fishermen while the buyer pays in addition three per cent municipal fees and 17 per cent value added tax. Fishing gear are available

on rent from a cooperative society in the Gaza Strip in addition to 10 other private dealers, but at high costs. noted the study. It lists the immediate

objectives of the project it

has proposed as improving fisheries management, enforcing regulations, support-ing fishermen through services and financing, and in-crease the level of fish output at Gaza to 5,000 tonnes per

The long-term objectives of the project, it says, include raising production to 7,500 tonnes per year, improving efficiency of the sector as well as the income and living standards of fishermen, increasing the availability of fish to the local population, and promoting exports and reducing imports.

Another long-term objective of the project is to develop fish-processing facilities and installations.

In general, the proposed project, if and when implemented, should go a long way towards freeing the Gaza fishing sector from constraints imposed by the Israeli occupation authorities. However, conditions attached by Israel in its negotiations with the PLO on selfrule arrangements might pose

It is expected that the proposed project will be financed from funds pledged by international donors to help develop the economy of the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. to pay compensation in 'copter downing'

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The United States said Friday in would pay \$100,000 in compensation to the families of the 11 foreign nationals who were killed in the April downing of two military helicopters in northern Iraq. The payments will go to the families of the six British, Turkish and French military members killed in the April 14 incident. Pentagon spokesman Major Tom LaRoque said. The families of five Kurdish workers employed by the U.S. government will receive a death benefit in the range of \$20,000 to \$30,000 and the Pentagon will supplement that payment to bring it up to \$100,000. The Pentagon said in a report released earlier this year that the pilots of two U.S. fighter planes had misidentified the helicopters as Iraqi and that crews on the observation plane had failed to tell the pilots the choppers were friendly. Twenty-six people aboard the two U.S. army helicopters were killed in the shooting by the fighter planes that were patrolling a restricted zone over Iraq. Family members of the U.S. military personnel on board the aircraft were eligible for a \$100,000 insurance payment and all but one had contributed to become eligible for a \$200,000 payment.

Arab, Israeli naval officers to attend symposium

OTTAWA (AFP) — Canada will host a symposium for naval officers from the Middle East that for the first time will bring together high-level Israeli and Arab officers, External Affairs Minister Andre Quellet said Friday. The conference, to be held in the eastern city of Halifax from Aug. 29 to Sept. 1, will focus on joint search and rescue operations, prevention of accidents at sea and cooperation in enforcing security in the region. "Canada is strongly committed to taking concrete steps to advance the Middle East peace process," said Mr. Ouellet. "This syposium represents a rare opportunity for senior officers from the region to exchange views face-to-face." he added. Representatives from the United States and Russia, the two countries chairing the Middle East peace process, will also attend the symposium.

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Police seize 102 kilos of heroin in Turkey

ANKARA (AP) — Police seized 102 kilogrammes of heroin at a border post Friday aboard a truck bound for Germany, a report said. The heroin was worth an estimated \$4.5 million. Anatolia news agency reported Anatolia said police at a post on the Bulgarian border acting on a tip, discovered the heroin among the cargo of a truck carrying textiles to Germany. A suspect was arrested on drug trafficking charges in the southern Mersin province on information provided by the truck driver, the report

Iraqi group claims Baghdad car-bomb

BEIRUT (R) — A newly-formed Iraqi Muslim fundamentalist group claimed responsibility on Friday for a car bomb attack in Baghdad earlier this week. The Iraqi Islamic Vanguards for National Salvation (IIVNS) said in a statement in Beirut the attack marked the start of a campaign to "to get rid of the unjust regime." A car-bomb exploded on Monday near the headquarters of the official newspaper Al Jumhouriya, killing a child, wounding 13 civilians and slightly damaging the building. Baghdad accused the United States of being behind the blast. The group accused media organisations using the complex of messing around with the thought of the people and the education of the opressed masses as well as deceiving the public and international public opinions." The IIVNS, set up by Shiite Muslim clergymen close to Iran, announced earlier this month that it was formed with the aim of toppling the regime and establishing a democratic state.

Man killed when bomb explodes prematurely

ANKARA (AP) — A Kurdish man was killed Friday wher t bomb he was trying to plant exploded prematurely in Istanbul, the Anatolia news agency reported. The report said the bomb exploded as the man was trying to set its timer in a house in the low-income Umraniye district. Police discovered a banner of the illegal Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) at the scene and detained three people, including the man's brother who owned the house, the report said. The PKK has claimed responsibility for some of the recent bombings that have rocked Istanbul.

Indian deputy minister visits Lebanon

BEIRUT (AFP) — India's Deputy Foreign Minister Krishan Srinivasan met with Lebanese leaders here Friday for talks on the Middle East peace process. Mr. Srinivasan who met Foreign Minister Fares Bouez, told reporters his country wanted to "strengthen cooperation ties with Lebanon." Foreign Ministry officials said Mr. Srinivasan also handed Mr. Bouez a message from Indian Foreign Minister Dinesh Singh asking for Lebanese support in India's territorial dispute with Pakistan. The dispute is to be examined in the next session of the United Nations General Assembly, which begins on Sept. 20. Mr. Srinivasan, who visited Damascus and Amman before arriving in Beirut, was to travel to Caíro on Saturday, officials said:

2 dead, 68 injured in Kabul rocket attack

ISLAMABAD (AFP) - At least two people were killed and 68 injured in a rocket attack on the Afghan capital of Kabul Friday, state-run Radio Kabul reported. The radio monitored here said that a barrage of 83 rockets slammed into the populated area of the city, causing heavy property losses. The radio, controlled by loyalists of embattled Afghan President Burhanuddun Rabbani, blamed forces of rival leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and his military ally from the north General Abdul Rashid Dostum for the

Thai police not to charge two Saudis in gems theft case The case involves the theft they were murdered, and In-Saudi businessman

BANGKOK (Agencies) — Thai police have decided not to pursue charges against two Saudi men in connection with the disappearance of part of the \$20 million in jewellery stolen from a Saudi prince in 1989, news reports said Saturday.

Police chief Pratin Rattanatham told local reporters Friday there was not enough evidence to link the two Saudis to the case. Thai police had sought per-

mission from the Interior Ministry to arrest Saudi police Captain Saeed Azali, who was sent here to help recover the gems, and an unidentified diplomat formerly attached to the Saudi embassy here.

But the ministry refused permission, saying it might damage relations with Saudi

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PRAYER TIMES

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church

Sweifich, Tel. 810740 Assemblies of God Church, Tel.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590. Church of the Annunciation Tel.

De la Saile Church Tcl. 661757 Terrasancia Church Tcl: 622366 Church of the Annanciation Tcl.

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543.

News in Hebrew

.... Step By Step Quantum Leap News in English

News in Eng

PROGRAMME TWO

21:10

72:20

of 90 kilogrammes of jewellery from a Saudi prince by a Thai servant. The Thai fled to Bangkok with the loot and was jailed, but only about 30 per cent of the items were returned to the prince and much of what was given back

Saudi Charge d'Affaires Mohammad Said Khoja, who has been waging a five-year battle to recover the jewellery, insists the gems were

stolen by Thai police. Mr. Khoja said Friday that the four Saudi embassy employees murdered here in 1990 were killed because they had vital information about the missing jewellery.

The bodies of the wife and teenage son of a key witness in the case were found earlier this month in a car north of Bangkok. Police first said

St. Ephralm Church Tel. 771751.

Evangelical Latherna Church Tel: 824328.

German-speaking avagencia Congregation Tel. 684195
The Latter-Day Satasts Tel. 654932
Church of Nazarene Tel.675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in

WEATHER

652526.

Tcl. 811295

Min./Max. temp.

terior Minister Chaowalit Yongchaiyudh said there was "no doubt that the deaths were linked to the gems case. But police have since ruled the two died in a traffic acci-

"They were all killed because they had information about the jewellery," Mr. Khoja told Reuters, adding that detectives from his country had determined the link. It was the first time Saudi Arabia has publicly linked the murders with the jewel-

lery theft. Mr. Khoja, who directly accused Thai police of one of the killings, said he was due to discuss the issue with Thai Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai next week. "Frankly I am fed up and the government of Saudi Arabia cannot wait any longer," he said.

Mr. Khoja said Saudi Arabia long had believed the four murders were linked to the jewellery theft but decided to go public because Thailand was now looking for scapegoats.

They have started to look for scapegoats. They said an officer from Saudi Arabia is involved," Mr. Khoja said. Thai police said earlier this month they suspected Capt. Azali was responsible for stealing the missing items.

"This is not a political issue. It is purely robbery on the part of (That police) generals and high-level civi lians," Mr. Khoja said. Fifteen Thai policemen, in-

cluding a former national police chief and his deputy, have been implicated in the scandal and face various

The three murdered

embassy staff — two diplomats and an embassy official - were gunned down on Bangkok streets in two separate incidents on the same day in February 1990, about two weeks after the Thai servant was arrested.

Thai police at first suspected the three, were murdered over a conflict with drug traffickers, then sug-gested they were killed due to a conflict over the export of Thai labour to Saudi Ārabia.

Police later suggested they were killed by Pakistani gangsters and finally concluded they were murdered by international terrorists.

Mr. Khoja dismissed the finding, saying the killers could have shot other embassy staff but had singled out the three because they had important information about the jewellery theft.

Mohammad Al Ruwaily, who had links with the Saudi royal family, disappeared the day after the three murders.

Mr. Khoja said on Friday that Thai police had abducted and murdered Ruwaily, then burned his body, because he too had information about the missing jewellery. A Thai policeman

Lieutenant-Colonel Somkid Boonthanom, was charged with Ruwaily's murder in 1993 but the case was later dismissed for lack of evi-

Saudi Arabia, angered by lack of progress in the case, stopped issuing new visas to Thai expatriate workers in 1990 when there were about 250,000 of them. Thai labour officials estimate there are 20,000 Thais still working in Saudi Arabia.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR Armenian Catholic Church Tel. Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS **NIGHT DUTY**

AMMAN: 816715 661912 Al Asema pharm 637055 Nairoukh pharmacy Al Salam pharmacy Yacoub pharmacy Shmeisani pharmacy 636730 637660 623672 847632

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111 Civil Defence Immediate

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Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 33, Aqaba 39 Humidiy readings: Amman 26 per cent, Aqaba 12 per cent.

18/30

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Highway Police Traffic Police 896390 ... 630321 .. 605800 Price Con Water and Sewerage 897467 Amman Municipality Complaints Telephone Information (directory assistance) 787111

Central Amman Telephone Repairs

Abdali Telephone Repairs 623101 661101 773111 . Jordan Television Water Authority Jordan Electricity Authority 680100 815615 Electric Power . 636381

HOSPITALS Hussein Medical Canal Khalidi Maternity, J. Anna 644281/6 Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32 Akiich Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2

Malhas, J. Amman . Palestine, Shrocisani 664171/4 Shineisani Hospital University Hospital Al-Mussher Hospital The Islamic, Abdali 669131 . 845845 Al-Abli, Abdali 664164/6 Italian, Al-Muhajreen ... 777101/3 Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafich 775111/26 Amal Hospital . ZARQA: Zarga Govt. Hospital (09)983323 Zarqa National Hospita (09)900560 (09)986732 Princess Basatta Hospital Greek Catholic Hospital Ibn Al Nafees Hospital ...

FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL **AIRPORT ARRIYALS**

incess Haya Hospital (03)314[1]

14:25 Royal Jordanian (RJ) 21:15

(Terminal 1)

09:38 Bahrain, Doha (Istanbul (R London (R Geneva (19:35 Athens (R1) Frankfurt Rhodes (add) (RJ) New York, Amsterdam (R.I. 21:00 Madrid (add) (RJ) Cairo (RJ) Doha (add) (RJ) Abu Dhabi (add) (RJ) 01:20

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

... Anatolia (TK) Bahrain (add) (GF)
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01:25 DEPARTURES Royal Jordanian (RJ) **Flights** (Terminal 1)

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Damascus (RJ) Other Flights (Terminal 2) 05:15 .. Anatolia (TK) Rome (AZ) Doha (add) (GF)
Doha, Muscat (GF) Moscow

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN -Dep. Ammun ... 8:00 a.m, every Monday Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m, every Monday Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday Arr. Ammun ... 5:00 p.m. every Sunday MARKET PRICES

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12TH GRADUATING CLASS: Her

Majesty Queen Noor Saturday

graduates the 12th class of the Gordoba Community College in

Zarqa. At the ceremony, Queen

Noor, who is the honorary chair-

woman of the college, distributed

certificates to the 190 graduates.

Established in 1981, Gordoba Col-

lege was the first to have been

established as an intermediate com-

munity college for women. The college offers diplomas in 13 specialisa-

tions ranging from business man-agement and computer program-

ming to sciences and fine arts. It

also offers accommodation facilities

By a Jordan Times

Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Signs are

emerging that a large num-

ber of containers carrying

Jordan-bound cargo stuck

at Saudi Arabia's Jeddah

port is being slowly re-leased by the Saudi author-

ities, but the flow is very

slow, businesspersons and

other sources said Satur-

The sources were speak-

ing against the backdrop of

reports that senior Jorda-

nian businesspersons were

in touch, officially and un-

officially, with their Saudi

counterparts in the cham-

ber of commerce and the

chamber of industry seek-

ing an explanation over why Jordan-bound cargo

was being delayed and in-spected at Jeddah.

The reports quoted the

Saudi businesspersons as

assuring the Jordanians

that the self-styled inspec-

tion of Jordan-bound cargo

at Jeddah port was not a

policy of the Saudi govern-

ment and that it was a

"mistake" that would be

However, only 56 of

nearly 500 Jordan-bound

containers have been re-

leased in the past week, the

"It seems that there is no

corrected soon.

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sation in 'copter down The United States said: ompensation to the family were killed in the April: is in northern Iraq. The said he six Brilish, Turkish and the April 14 medem. It are down the U.S. government the range of \$20,000 to optement that Payment is staged.

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sources said. Deputy Foreign Mc panese leaders here for hard and fast decision that e process. Mr. Snris the Jordan-bound contain-Bouez, fold reports. ers should be released immediately for trans-shipment to Aqaba," said one source. "The port au-thorities at Jeddah are takn cooperation his if icials said ber Source age from Indian Fee! for Lehanese suppor kistan. The disputng their own time, studyof the United No. ing consignment by conon Sept. 20 Mr State signment, as II unc and objective is to give Jordaemman netore annua Saturday, officials nian importers as much trouble as possible."
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IDB loans JD7m

want to hold on to the

AMMAN (Petra) — The Industrial Development Bank (IDB) approved 29 loans totalling Brunei civil aviation team to JD7.085 million to local industrial, tourism and services schemes in the second quarter of

pared to 74 loans totalling JD13.6 million in

to Iraq.

Kuwait.

arrive for talks

the same period of 1993.

1994. Some of these loans will go to finance AMMAN — A delegation from the Brunei new projects including the manufacturing of Civil Aviation Authority is due in Amman

wooden furniture, plastic products, spare Sunday for talks with Civil Aviation Authority Parts for washing machines, tissue paper and (CAA) officials on air transport cooperation. metal furniture, as well as the establishment. The head of the Jordanian team to the talks is of dairies. An IDB statement said that the CAA Director General Ahmad Jweiber who bank had granted a total of 68 loans totalling said that the Brunei team will spend several JD15.4 million since the start of 1994 com- days in Jordan.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

R Film entitled "The Rocketeer" at the An rican Centre at 5:00 p.m.

LECTURE

Lecture in Arabic entitled "The Middle Rastern System's by Mr. Farid Abdul Kurim at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundstion in Jabal Amman at 6:30 p.m.

POETRY RECITAL

R Poetry recital by Iraqi poet Dunya Micka'll at the Association of Jordanian Wri-

ters at 6:00 p.m. EXHIBITIONS

* Exhibition entitled "Time-2 Space 1" by Samia Zarou at . arat Al Funna of the

Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh. Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).

★ Exhibition of paintings by Fahmi Quyssi at Ab'ad Art Gallery (Tel. 819861).

* Exhibition of abstract art by Ghaleb Nahi and International Yass Alia Art Gallery (Tel. 639350).

★ Children's school needs exhibition at the Auman International Auto Exhibition, Airport Road (12:00 poon-11:00 p.m. (Tel. 714211).

Exhibition of oil paintings by Princess Wijdan Ali at the Balqa Art Gallery in Fuheis (19:00 a.m. 8,:90 p.m.). (Tel. 720677).

☆ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian and Iraqi artists at Orfall Art Gallery in Umm Utheina (Tel. 826932).

Norwegian firm wins \$70m contract to link Aqaba-Taba power grids

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) has awarded two contracts related to linking the national power grid of the Kingdom with that of Egypt, JEA Director-General Mohammad Arafa said Saturday.

Mr. Arafa said a \$70 million contract to lay 10 kilometres of submarine cable linking the power grid at Aqaba with the Egyptian network at Taba was given to a Norwegian company and another con-tract for 10 kilometres of overhead cable was granted to a Turkish company.

for non-Jordanian students who

wish to pursue their studies in the

Kingdom. Furthermore, the college

provides financial aid to needy stu-

dents through a fund-raising social committee. The Queen, who was accompanied by Mrs. Noor Izze-

dine, was received upon arrival by

Minister of Interior Salameh Ham-

mad, who is a member of the college

board of trustees, and Minister of

Higher Education Rateb Saoud.

Queen Noor was also received by

the mayor of Zarqa, the dean of the

Gordoba College and members of

the board of trustees (Petra photo)

port and customs author-

At least three ships ar-

rived at Aqaba since Thurs-

day noon when the Lloyds

Register arrangement went

into place. All of them are

carrying goods for the Jordanian market.

adds: The lifting of U.S.-

led naval inspections of

Jordan-bound vessels is ex-

pected to triple imports

into Aqaba, the Kingdom's

vital trade centre, shipping

sea inspections ... the cost

of maritime transport to

here will be reduced con-

siderably and the port will

operate as before on a com-

petitive level," said Dureid

Mahasneh, director of Jor-

dan's Port Authority. He said he expected the

amount of cargo handled at Aqaba would effectively

triple, from a present 12

million tonnes a year to

pre-Gulf war levels of 30-36

"We also expect that 21

maritime lines who stopped

shipping to Aqaba after the

interceptions began will re-

sume their activities here

For four years, American

warships had conducted

strict offshore inspections

of all vessels sailing into

Jordan's territorial waters

as part of enforcement of

international sanctions im-

posed on Iraq following its August 1990 invasion of

Before the Gulf crisis, 70

per cent of all cargo arriv-

ing at Aqaba was destined

for Iraq, whose ports were

destroyed during the 1980-

88 war with Iran. From

Aqaba, cargo was trucked

very soon," he added.

million tonnes.

"After the lifting of the

officials said Saturday.

The Associated Press

Saudi-held Jordan-bound cargo

slowly being released-sources

cargo for any specific pur-

pose since there is no item

in the containers that is in

violation of the sanctions

against Iraq," said another source. "There is no legal

ground for anyone to hold them back."

dah authorities would be

releasing the cargo consignment by consignment,

thus delaying the onloading of the containers to feeder

ships," said a shipping agent. "But then there is

very little we could do ab-

out it except protest

through the diplomatic

Diplomats from several

European countries were

working through their own

corridors to solve the prob-

surfaced a few days before

the offshore inspections of

Agaba-bound ships by

U.S. warships in the Red

Sea were replaced by a

land-based verification reg-

ime operated by a London-

based independent firm,

Lloyds Register sur-

veyors took up their posi-

tions at Aqaba port on

Thursday and the U.S.

warships moved away from

the Tiran Straits at the

mouth of the Gulf of

Aqaba, signalling an end to

four years of difficulties

posed to shipping in and out of Jordan's only sea-

Shipping sources Satur-day said things were nor-

mal at the port, with ships

expected to come in with-

The cargo they carry will be surveyed by an eight-member Lloyds Register team working in coordina-

tion with the Jordanian

NEWS IN BRIEF

out any inspections.

Lloyds Register.

The problems at Jeddah

lem, the sources said.

We think that the Jed-

Mr. Arafa did not give the amount of the contract to the Turkish company but said it as "a small project." Other sources identified

the Norwegian company as Al Catel Kable Norge and the Turkish company as Sezai-Turkes FeyziAkkaya.
The Turkish company's contract was worth \$1.5 million and limited to the civil works and towers, the

sources said. Japan's Itoshu Corporation will supply the insulated wire for the overhead cabling and Austria's Berndorf-FAS will supply conductors. The cost of these components was not immediately known.

The contract for Al Catel was a Turkey project under which the company under-took all work related to the submarine cable.

Work on the linkage is expected to be completed in the first half of 1997, when "the linkage among Middle Eastern networks would take a major leap," Mr. Arafa told the Jordan

Times. The Jordan-Egypt link is expected to cost about \$100 million and is partly financed by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development under an

government and the fund. Part of the loan from the fund will be channelled to an expansion project at the Aqaba Thermal Power Sta-

Mr. Arafa noted that lordan was working on ex-panding its linkage with the network of Syria, which in turn is being connected with that of Turkey as part of a five-country agreement signed early this year grouping Jordan, Egypt,

Syria, Iraq and Turkey. Work on the Iraqi part of the project will start only after the international sanctions on that country are lifted or eased to allow the

In the meantime, Egypt is working on setting up a 300-kilometre linkage between Taba and Suez and also on linking its power grid with that of Libya as the last part of a network that stretches all the way to

"By the year 1997, the

be connected with Europe and Asea," said Mr. Arafa, adding that Morocco's power grid was to be connected with that of Spain across the Strait of Gibral-

Simultaneously, the Turkish part of the regional link-up will also have a European extension to complete the Middle Eastern-European circuit,

In the Gulf meanwhile, the six members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have been discussing a power linkage project, and the United Arab Emirates have taken the lead in connecting its power grid with neighbouring states.

The GCC link with the rest of the Middle Eastern network could come either through a Saudi-Jordanian link or a Turkish-Iraqi-Saudi link depending on the course of political developments related to Arabia and Kuwast.

At some point, Israel would be brought into the regional network. Egypt and Israel are working on linking their networks across the Sinai.

Jordan and Israel have agreed to link their networks as part of the measures outlined in the Washington Declaration of July 25. However, no real progress has been made in discussions on the issue during the bilateral nego-tiations that followed the signing of the declaration.

At the same time, since the overall linkage of the networks would need close feasibility studies and a lengthy process, the two sides have agreed in principle to have a "temporary" inkage between the networks of Agaba and Eilat, negotiators said.

Detailed information on the plan was not immediately available.

Public universities accept 8,643 students

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian state universities will accept 8,643 new students from around the Kingdom out of a total of 21,000 applicants for the new academic year 1994-95, according to Mohammad Maqusi, head of the coordinating committee for acceptance and enrolment in these universities. In a statement Saturday,

Dr. Maqusi said that in addition to these students, the public universities will accept students from other Arab countries including the West Bank at a rate of 10 per cent of the total number of accepted students for this

Twenty-six per cent of the dents will be enrolled from special lists including that provided by the Jordanian Armed Forces and the Minis-

try of Education, and students in governorates and those excelling in sports. According to Dr. Maqusi, the University of Jordan will accept 3,262 Jordanian stu-

dents, Yarmouk University 2,587, Muta University 1,490, Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) 1,085, and the Amman Applied Engineering College 219.

The lowest Tawjihi grade average accepted at Muta University was 76.9 per cent, at Yarmouk 78.6, JUST 81.3

He said that 187 Tawjihi

Government exempts drug industry inputs from sales tax

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government has decided to exempt all inputs in the pharmaceutical industry from the sales tax which was introduced in June this year.

A statement following a regular Cabinet session Saturday said that the decision was taken in order to encourage local drug industries and support their efforts to compete with other firms in the local and international markets as well as ensure reasonable drug prices especially for the limited-income groups.

Minister of Finance Sami Gammoh had recommended to the Council of Ministers that the government exempt Jordanian drug manufactur-ing companies from the sales tax imposed on inputs used in the industry whether made in Jordan or imported from other countries.

According to Nizar Jardaneh, a leading pharmaceutical industrialist in Jordan, the Kingdom currently has six drug manufacturing companies and four factories manufacturing veterinary products.

These companies export a total of 75 per cent of their production to Arab and foreign nations and earn around JD56 million annually, he

The Cabinet, at its regular meeting Saturday, also raised to 100 per cent, from 50 per cent, the rate of exemptions from income tax on Jorda-

other countries. The statement said that the following services will be entirely exempt from income tax: computer, feasibility studies, legal, investment, engineering accountancy and auditing services.

It said the decision was taken in light of the expected beneficial effects these services will have on the national economy.

The government will consider all elected municipal councils and municipal committees dissolved as of September 1, 1994, the date when the Municipalities Law

The Cabinet has decided to form temporary municipal committees headed by public officials to run the affairs of the 191 municipalities for one year, after which general municipal elections will be conducted.

The Cabinet, which met under the chairmanship of Acting Prime Minister Thougan Hindawi, agreed to the conversion of the ownership of Nadim Hospital in Madaba from the private sector to the Health Ministry and authorised the finance minister to sign the agreement.

The Cabinet also decided to appoint Hashem Shboul as secretary general of Jordan Valley Authority (JVA), to succeed Abdul Aziz Wishah who has been transferred to the prime minister's office serving as an advisor.

other organisations and

senior officials to renew the

Jordanian associations' sur-

port for Iraq, said Dr. Nasser

because of our belief in and

demand for an end to the

embargo now that Iraq has

complied with all the U.N.

Security Council require-ments," said Dr. Nasser.

tion will tour the various in-

stallations and institutions

that have been reconstructed

after the Gulf wat, and

address a press conference on

Thursday

During the trip, the delega-

"We are making the trip

in a statement Saturday.

Professional groups team to head for Iraq with aid

AMMAN (Petra) - A delegation representing nine Jordanian professional associations heads for Baghdad Monday with a modest shipment of medicines for a show of solidarity with the Iraqi people in the face of the continued U.N.-imposed sanctions, according to Kamal Nasser, president of the Jordan Bar Association (JBA), who is leading the

During the several day visit to Iraq, the delegation members will meet with heads of Iraqi professional associations, representatives of

and the University of Jordan, 79.4 per cent, according to

students accepted at these total number of accepted stu- universities had average grades above 95 per cent, 3,687 had above 85 per cent and 6,897 had above 80 per

AMMAN (J.T.) — Nader Dahabi, President and Chief Executive Officer of Royal Jordanian (RJ) Saturday sáid that the national airline was seriously considering replacing its Tristar planes used on Far East routes.

Addressing the first session of a two-day meeting by RJ area managers in the Far East to discuss marketing issues, Mr. Dahabi said that RJ was nian services exported to currently considering two replacement options to its fleet of five Tristars.

A senior RJ official declined to name the aircraft under consideration, saying that the airline management was still studying the subject. In light of a new era of

peace in the region, RJ will fall under increased demand for operations along its Far Fast routes and was expecting expansion on these routes, hence the need to acquire modern aircrafts, said Mr. Dahabi.

intends to replace Tristars

Royal Jordanian (RJ) President and Chief head of the table) Saturday chairs an area

Executive Officer Nader Dahabi (at the managers meeting at RI headquarters

RJ president says airline

The aim of the area managers meeting was to set plans for improving the perform-ance of marketing and sales and discussing new developments in the air travel market

and their effects on RJ sales. said Mr. Dahabi. RI's Far East routes include flights to Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia and

Malaysia. Noting that the airline's operations so far fall 15 per cent short of the set plan, Mr. Dahabi said increased efforts are required especially as RJ expects further expansion of

its operations on these RJ Vice President for Marketing and Sales Majdi Sabri told the meeting that

RJ's operations in the first six months of 1994 resulted in 9.8 per cent increase in revenues compared to the same period last year.

Dr. Sabri said that the coming era of peace would create strong competition among world airlines and would boost tourism and air travel in general.

According to Zuheir Dahman, RJ vice-president for administration and purchase. a meeting will be organised early next month for all parties involved in the privatisation process being studied by

Samer Majali, RJ vicepresident for airport services, reviewed the airline's plans to control take off schedules and improve services at the Oueen Alia International Airport (QAIA).



Panelists address the opening session of a three-day meeting on intellectual property

Protection of intellectual property is on the agenda of WIPO meeting

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan yearns for a comprehensive peace in the Middle East which can open the door for stronger economic cooperation among the countries of the region, said Mohammad Smadi, secretary general of the Ministry of Industry and Trade Saturday.

Addressing the opening of a three-day meeting orga-nised by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), Mr. Smadi said that Jordan hopes that the new General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). signed earlier this year, will open up new avenues of economic and commercial coop-

eration between the countries of the Middle East. In his address, delivered on behalf of Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf, Mr. Smadi said that in its drive to show commitment to WIPO regulations, Jordan, which

has been a member of this organisation since 1972, has enacted special legislations and provided the essential elements that ensure protection for intellectual and industrial property. Dr. Arpad Borsch, WIPO

director general, addressed the opening session noting that training of human resources acquires priority among the organisation's programmes for Third World countries

WIPO is ready to continue cooperation with these countries provided they enact rules that ensure protection for intellectual and industrial property, said Dr. Bogsch. He said that WIPO has been closely cooperating with

Arab states in training programmes, thus enabling them to pursue development Transfer of modern tech-

nology to the Third World.

are among the main topics on the agenda of the meeting which is attended by delegates from several Arab states. The Geneva-based WIPO. which became a specialised agency of the United Nations

goods and their role in trade,

and WIPO's objectives and

laws concerning the protec-

tion of intellectual property

in 1974, aims to promote the protection of intellectual property throughout the world through cooperation among states and, where appropriate, with other international organisations.

Intellectual property comprises two main branches: industrial property, chiefly inventions, trademarks and designs; and copyright, chiefly literary, musical, artistic, photographic and cinematographic works.

Mother reunited

COPENHAGEN (AP) -The only Danish word Nanna Yassin remembered was "Mor," or mom. Eighteen

years after her Sudanese

father abducted her from De-

nmark, Nanna Yassin has

been reunited with her

mother. Jytte Falkenberg

met her daughter last

weekend for the first time

since her father abducted her

to Khartoum, Sudan, in 1976,

using a forged passport, the

B.T. newspaper said. Ms. Falkenberg, 43, never heard

with daughter 18 years later

Cuba holds door open for talks on refugee crisis with U.S.

United States clamped new economic sanctions on Cuba and prepared to convert its naval base on the island into a sprawling detention camp as Havana held open the door for talks aimed at resolving its refugee crisis.

Rough weather and heavy seas cut the number of Cuban boat people in the windwhipped Florida Straits Friday. Only 414 were picked up between midnight Thursday (0400 GMT Friday) and Friday evening compared to more than 3,000 on a single day earlier in the week, the U.S. Coast Guard said.

But the number was expected to soar once the weather cleared, and the U.S. military ordered more than 2,000 civilians to evacuate its naval base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to make room for a tent city capable of holding up to 60,000 re-

Cuba repeated its willingness to negotiate with the United States on the boat people crisis, even if talks were initially only on immigration issues — the only point president Bill Clinton has said Washington is willing

to discuss with Havana. Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina told a news conference during a visit to Bolivia Friday that Havana "wouldn't refuse" if the United States wanted to discuss immigration without bringing in other issues.

. Mr. Robaina was quoted earlier by the Cuban news

WASHINGTON (R) — The agency Prensa Latina as saying that while Cuba believed a solution lay in broader discussions, Havana did not object to starting with the immigration issue.

Mr. Clinton has rebuffed President Fidel Castro's position that the exodus of Cubans in the last few weeks has been caused by wider U.S. policy decisions toward Cuba, including its longstanding economic embargo.

Mr. Castro indicated Wednesday that while a real solution to the problem would be a general overhaul of U.S. policy toward Cuba, Havana would not object to starting with talks on immigration issues.

Senior Clinton administration officials were quoted in Saturday's editions of the Los Angeles Times as saying that formal U.S.-Cuba negotiations were still far from cer-

But they said the two sides were discussing the prospect and could come to a decision within the next few days.

The U.S. Treasury Department activated a presidential order Friday stopping Cuban-Americans from sending cash to their relatives in Cuba. Officials planned to watch banks and shops specialising. in wiring money to Cuba in Miami's Little Havana to en-

force the order. The United States also moved to curtail charter flights to the island. Officials estimate Cuban Americans send about \$50 million a year to Cuba and travel adds

Mr. Clinton ordered the stepped up sanctions to punish Mr. Castro for failing to halt the exodus of Cuban boat people to the United States.

U.S. officials say a halt in remittances could deprive the cash-starved Cuban economy of as much as \$500 million a Last week, Mr. Clinton

also reversed a 28-year-old policy of automatically receiving all Cubans who sought asylum, saying boat' people would be turned away from the United States and held at Guantanamo indefinitely. U.S. officials said more

than 11,000 Cubans were already at Guantanamo Friday or on ships waiting to be unloaded there. About 14.500 Haitian refugees are also being held at the base.

Admiral Henry Mauz. commander in chief of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet, issued the order to evacuate civilians from Guantanamo late Friday, military officials told a group of Defence Depart-

ment pool reporters.
Navy officials said 2,236 family members of military. civilian and contract workers would be evacuated by air beginning Wednesday.

More would leave later if

refugees continued to pour into the base on the eastern tip of Cuba which the U.S. has maintained since the early 1900s, the officials said. Nearly 17,000 Cuban refugees have been plucked

from small fishing boats and

makeshift rafts in August, far more than the total of 9,513 Cubans rescued off Florida for the decade between 1983 and 1993.

Navy Lieutenant Commander Joe Quimby, a spokesman at Guantanamo, said the civilians were being pulled off the base because of the need to divert electricity and desalinated water to the tent city, which Mr. Castro has called a "concentration camp.'

Comm. Quimby also said the refugees could pose a security problem in the future, but he did not elabo-

Undeterred by bad weather and U.S. warnings that they can't enter the United States, many Cubans vowed to leave this economically depressed island nation the first

chance they get.
"We're going," said Carlos
Fonseca, a 27-year-old artisan who said he and two friends were just waiting for the weather to clear.

'My house is empty. I sold the TV, the refrigerator, the stove and a mattress," he said, to buy the raft he intends to paddle to Florida.

Mr. Fonseca and hundreds of others planned to leave even though the Clinton administration says it will no longer grant automatic asylum to Cubans who reach U.S.

To relieve pressure on his own government, Mr. Castro stopped trying to prohibit illegal immigration.



rafters attempting to cross the Florida Straits An exhausted Cuban refugee rests in an has dropped because of bad weather (AFP inflatable boat after being rescued by the U.S. Coast Guard ship Grand Isle. The number of

Mahathir tells Murayama to step up aid instead of apologising

future," he added.

nial rulers

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Japanese Premier Tomiichi Murayama was told by his Malaysian host Saturday to stop apologising for his country's war crimes and show remorse by expanding aid to South East Asia, a

Japanese spokesman said. Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad, during 145 minutes of talks with Mr. Murayama, also pledged to back Japan's entry into the U.N. Security Council to enable Tokyo play a more active role in maintaining Asian peace, stability and prosper-

"Mahathir could not understand why Japan keeps on apologising and apologis-ing for its wartime crimes committed almost 50 years ago," Japanese government spokesman Kishichiro Amae told journalists after the

"He said it was more important to take lessons from the past and build on a better

BELFAST (R) - Reports

that Britain may relax its

absolute claim to Northern

Ireland in the quest for a

political settlement triggered

a bitter controversy Saturday

about the price in the pro-

Despite official assurances

that any deal would respect

the province's democratic

wishes, hardline Protestant

off with Dublin.

Mr. Mahathir told Mr. Murayama he would not encourage Malaysians to ask Japan for compensation for crimes committed almost balf a century ago, when Kuala Lumpur had not even thought of asking redress from its former British colo-

"Mr. Murayama had no time to respond to Mahathir's remarks as he was rushing off to have an audience with Malaysia's King" Tuanku Ja'afar Abdul Rahman, said Mr. Amae.

Mr. Murayama flew in late Friday with a 30-member delegation for a three-day visit on the third leg of an eightday tour of four South East Asian countries, with Japan's World War II aggression overshadowing the tour. He earlier visited the Phi-

lippines and Vietnam, and was to leave here for Singapore early Sunday. While in the Philippines,

U.K. claim to N. Ireland 'under review'

the truce in the coming days

or weeks to grab the political

limelight for its political wing

Sinn Fein, which might then

join other Northern Ireland

where women forced to work as sex slaves for Japanese troops demanded compensation, Mr. Murayama vowed to tell Japanese youth the truth about the war.

In Vietnam, Mr. Murayama expressed remorse for wartime atrocities and colonial rule to Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet, who said the Vietnamese had "closed the door on the past" and now wanted to develop better relations with Japan.

Japan invaded Malaysia through Thailand, then Siam, in December 1941 and advanced down the peninsula. capturing the fortress of Singapore some three months la-

The civilian death toll while Japan overran vast areas of Asia is estimated at up to two million in Indochina, 1.1 million in the Philippines and about 50,000 in Malaysia and Singapore, according to Japanese scho-

The Daily Telegraph said

leaked documents showed a

clause about "supreme au-

thority" was being changed

to incorporate the idea that

Britain's rule must be by

ment are prepared to surren-

der the sovereignty of the

United Kingdom over part of

the United Kingdom," an

outraged Rev. Paisley, leader

of the Democratic Unionist

Party, told British Broadcast-

ing Corporation Radio.
The Northern Ireland

"There is no question of

any change in the constitu-tional position of Northern

Ireland as part of the United

Kingdom unless and until

that were the wish of a major-

ity of the people of Northern

Ireland," a spokesman said,

without denying that the wording of the law is under

Last December's Anglo-

Irish peace formula acknow-

ledged the possibility of a united Ireland but only if a

majority of Northern Ireland

voters endorsed it. Protes-

tants currently outnumber

Catholics in the province by

review.

office reacted promptly.

Now the British govern-

popular consent.

port, the newspaper said. Museum buys painting by

his specialty.

LOS ANGELES (AP) Actor Tony Curtis has filed for divorce from his fourth wife, citing irreconcilable differences. There was no provision for alimony for either party in the papers, filed in Los Angeles County Superior Court. There also was no mention of a division of property. Curtis, 69, and Lisa Deutsch Curtis, 32, were wed Feb. 28, 1993. They shared a Los Angeles home and have no children, said publicist Jennifer Walsh. Curtis starred in more than 100 films including "Some Like It Hot." Earlier this year, Curtis underwent heart bypass surgery and lost the son he. had with his third wife, exmodel Leslie Allen. Curtis has five other grown children, including actress Jamie

ingola.

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Boiling July boosts beer to heady levels

WIESBADEN, Germany (AFP) — Germans, already among the world's most enthusiastic beer drinkers, outdid themselves during the July heat wave, the very sober Federal Statistics Office in Wiesbaden reported. It said sales of German beer jumped by 10.9 per cent last month from the year-earlier month, to a heady 11.2 million hectoliters — up 1.1 mil-lion from July last year. To nobody's surprise, 92.6 per cent of the sales were made in

RSPCA: Body Shop fails animal testing criteria

LONDON (AFP) — Britain's Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) will encourage shoppers to take their custom from the Body Shop to retailers with "higher ethical standards", said the Guardian Saturday. The organisation said the chain did not meet tougher guidelines it was introducing on animal testing, although Body Shor has campaigned against animal testing.

Clinton: Crime bill shows bipartisanship

EDGARTOWN, Massachusetts (R) President Bill Clinton said Saturday the passage by Congress of a \$30 billion crime bill showed Democrats and Republicans can work together, and that they should do so again on health care reform.

"The crime bill shows we can," Mr. Clinton said in his national weekly radio address, taped in Washington Friday just before he left for a summer vacation on the island resort of Martha's Vineyard off the coast of

Massachusetts. e din and sent it to Mr. Clinton for his signature Thursday night after the House of Representatives had pulled it back from limbo and approved it last Sunday.

"It shows that when we put aside the rhetoric and the partisanship, we can solve any issue and meet any challenge. Its narrow victory also shows the damage, the danger that partisanship can bring to our deliberation," he

At the same time, Democratic majority leader George Mitchell gave up on plans to keep the Senate in session right through its summer holiday to continue work on stalled health care reform, Mr. Clinton's top domestic priority.

Sen. Mitchell said he and The Senate passed the others would continue to work on compromise health care proposals during a twoweek recess until Sept. 12. But he conceded for the first time that he cannot get a broad health care reform through Congress.

"It clearly will not be a bill as comprehensive as I would prefer but there's much that can be done that would represent progress," Sen. Mitchell, a Maine Democrat, said Friday. "I hope that we can, working together, produce a bill that will make substantial progress and be passed this

Mr. Clinton tried to inject a note of optimism about the most important project of his presidency, saying already more progress has been made toward health care reform "than ever before."

"Members of both parties are trying hard to work out their differences. And health care will be the first order of business when Congress returns. We have to continue this fight. We have to win it,"

Amnesty International Friday condemned the expansion of the U.S. federal death penalty in President Clinton's

new crime bill as a "major

setback for human rights." The death penalty, now authorised under U.S. federal law for drug-related homicides and murder during aircraft hijacking, will be extended to more than 50 more federal crimes under the bill.

"This extension just adds to the grave concerns we already have about the use of the death penalty in the U.S.A., which is applied disproportionately on the poor, minority groups, the mentall ill or retarded, and those without adequate legal repre-sentation," the Londonbased human rights organisa-

U.N. observers begin monitoring Haitian border

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (Agencies) — International observers gathered at strategic points in the Western Dominican Republic to monitor enforcement of a worldwide trade embargo on neighbouring Haiti, military officials said. The 88 U.N. observers

have established five checkpoints along the 225-mile (380-km) frontier that divides the two nations on the Caribbean island of Hispaniola, said Armed Forces Minister Lieutenant General Constantino Matos Villanueva. The military and civilian

observers are to use U.S.donated helicopters, vehicles and telecommunications equipment to watch for violations of U.N.-imposed trade embargo on Haiti. The United Nations tight-

ened trade sanctions on Haiti in May to try to force the country's ruling military to cede power to President Jean-Bertrand Aritside, the popularly elected leader overthrown in a bloody coup almost three years ago. The Dominican Republic

until now has not enforced the embargo and similar punitive economic measures but diplomats hope that will change under the new deal signed by U.S. officials and recently reelected Dominican President Joaquin Balaguer.

Two top U.S. officials are heading to Jamaica next week to consult with Caribbean countries on the formation of a U.N.-sanctioned multinational force for a possible invasion of Haiti, the State Department said Friday.

Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott and Deputy Defence Secretary John Deutch's trip to Jamaica Tuesday was at the invitation of the 13-member Caribbean Community (Caricom), State Department spokesman Michael McCurry said.

They also were to stopover in the Dominican Republic on the way home to discuss efforts to seal Haiti's borders, enforcing a U.N. embargo,



A Haitian woman trains during a rifle hand-ling drill along with male civilian recruits near the Presidential Palace in Port-Au-Prince. The invasion (AFP photo)

the spokesman said.

Caricom foreign ministers and heads of military and police forces were meeting in Jamaica to discuss how they can contribute to the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 940, which authorised use of force to oust Haiti's military, McCurry said.

The resolution envisions a two-phase operation under which a multilateral force could invade Haiti and seize control. It would be followed by a U.N. mission to keep the peace and retrain the Haitian

security forces. "An item of discussion will be those aspects of the U.N. resolution that deal with the multinational force," said Mr. McCurry. "That will clearly be part of the agen-

He said U.S. officials would discuss planning for both phases of the operation with the Caribbean officials.

Mr. McCurry said another "useful purpose" of the trip by Mr. Talbott and Mr. Deutch was to show Haiti's military that Washington has not forgotten about them despite the current crisis over

Cuban refugees.

Although the timing of any action is up to President Bill Clinton, one U.S. official said it was "unthinkable" that the Haitian military could still be in power on Dec. 9, when the U.S. president hosts hemispheric leaders at a summit in Miami.

Washington hopes that ail the Caricom members would participate in the multinational force, although most would take part only in the post-invasion phase, a State Department official said.

"There have been good, productive discussions with other countries," said Mr. McCurry.

So far, only Argentina has said publicly it would provide troops for an invasion force. but it later withdrew the offer amid criticism in the Argentine Congress.

At a Caricom summit in July, leaders of the Englishspeaking countries in the Caribbean said they would support a U.N.-sanctions invasion of Haiti only if there were a threat to regional security or evidence of geno-

Despite the deteriorating

conditions in Haiti, the situation did not warrant an invasion, Jamaican Prime Minister Percival Patterson said at

Meanwhile, Haiti's new de facto Finance Minister pledged Friday to take further measures to rescue the plunging currency as major aid donors met in Paris to decide the country's future without its military leaders.

Cabinet ministers of the military backed government toasted George Henri Fils with imported champagne after he pledged in his inauguration speech to take control of the sanctions-hit economy.

In Paris, World Bank and International Monetary Fund officials and major donors met with representatives of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to chart priorities for the troubled Caribbean nation if its military rulers are removed.

Mr. Fils was appointed cabinet minister late Thursday to replace Rigand Du-plan, who was dismissed by the de facto government after the Haitian gourd fell to record lows against the dollar parties in round-table talks about the province's future. Hopes of an early IRA announcement rose Friday when an unofficial Irish-American peace delegation to the province emerged from talks with Sinn Fein speaking

leader Ian Paisley accused Britain of plotting a constituof a possible "dramatic tional "surrender" in a tradebreakthrough" in the offing. Confidence about progress His outburst followed press towards peace was undiminished by suspected IRA mortar attacks overnight on reports on both sides of the Irish Sea that London and Northern Ireland police sta-Dublin are working on revistions in which 15 people were

ing their highly contentious claims to Northern Ireland. slightly injured.
With talks of an IRA bid The two governments are trying to reconcile these for respectability in the air, opposing claims as part of a peace initiative they launched Protestant supporters of the union with Britain were eight months ago to persuade IRA guerrillas and their Probound to be unsettled by a headline in the Daily Teletestant extremist foes to graph saying that their sovereignty was hanging "in the balance."

abandon violence. The storm broke at a deeply sensitive time in Northern Picking up a theme of periodic press speculation, it said British Prime Minister Ireland as the Irish Republican Army (IRA) is rumoured to be planning an open-ended ceasefire in its 25-year war of John Major was offering to soften the 1920 law that led to attrition against British rule the island's partition if Ireland held a referendum on its in the province.

The IRA is expected to call

territorial claim to the proabout three to two. U.N. agency submerged by refugees

GENEVA (AFP) - With some 55 million displaced persons, the world has more refugees today than at any time in its history, placing intolerable strains on the resources of the United Nations and humanitarian organisa-

"We are submerged by the needs," acknowledged Sylvana Foa, spokeswoman in Geneva of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

This year in Rwanda alone, about 3.5 million people were turned into refugees by three months of ethnic bloodshed and civil war.

Following on from Afghanistan, Indochina, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Somalia, Rwanda is currently the top priority of the UNHCR, whose mandate is to aid those fleeing their country to escape political persecution. The latest exodus of

thousands of Cubans -13,000 picked up inside a week by U.S. Coast Guards - does not concern the UNHCR directly since most of the Cubans appear to be "economic migrants" fleeing low living standards at home. The same is not true of Haitians who fled a country where the U.N. acknowledges that there are "systematic human rights viola-

A UNHCR spokesman said Friday that the High Commissioner was "consulting with the United States to be allowed to play a role" in the centres where Haitians and Cubans are interned after being caught trying to enter the United States. More than 14,000 Haitians

and 6,000 Cubans are kept under guard at the U.S. Guantanamo base in Cuba. The UNHCR said it wanted to try to help resettle the refugees if possible in other countries.

In recent years, the number of refugees who have fled to another country and those of people displaced within their own country has soared at an alarming rate, belying the hopes that an era of peace and prosperity would follow the end of the cold war.

The former Soviet Union has seen a rash of ethnic and political conflicts, each of which has added to the tide of refugees. In 20 years, the number of

people entitled to expect aid from the UNHCR has swollen from 10 million to 23 million, the figure on Dec. 31, 1993. The figure at the end of 1992 was 19 million. A further 26 million people around the world have been displaced by war but are not of direct concern to the UNHCR.

To these figures must be added 2.7 million displaced Palestinians in the Middle East aided by the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UN-RWA). In some cases the UNHCR also has to provide aid to

people displaced in their own

country by war, normally an

area of activity covered by the International Committee of the Red Cross. It thus coordinates international aid for 2.7 million peo-

ple in Bosnia. "We don't have the answer to all problems," said Fran-cois Fouinat, chief of staff to High Commissioner Sadako

Ogata. "Unfortunately we are in Rwanda for a long time," he

Elsewhere, for example in Afghanistan, the UNHCR will also have to shelter and feed refugees in camps for many years to come, aided by such organisations as Medecins Sans Frontiers, the medical charity, and UN-ICEF, which gives children a minimum of schooling.

"We have a problem of human resources. We have to find qualified staff while we are faced with one emergency after another," Mr. Fouinat

from her daughter after her ex-husband fled with the child to his wealthy family in Sudan. All she had was a photograph of a 6-year-old blond girl with African features. Yassin, 24, was raised as Muslim and taught Arabic, forgetting her mother tongue, except for the word 'Mor," the daily said. She lived under the thumb of her father's family until she married last year and moved to Saudi Arabia with her new husband. Through the Danish embassy there, they located her mother. Yassin's Husband called his motherin-alw in July from a phone booth in Saudi Arabia, introducing himself in English before passing the phone to Yassin. "For many years, I was in despair and cried many times in my sleep," Flakenberg said. "Words can't describe how good it feels" to be united again, she said. The couple intends to settle in Denmark, where the Foreign Ministry has already given Yassin a Danish pass-

Bosmi

Dutch master

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) - The Mauritshuis Museum has spent 1.4 million guilders (\$809,248) to buy a painting by the 17th century Dutch master Nicolaas Maes, a museum spokesman said. Museum director Frits Dupare said the painting, "an old lace maker," is a characteristic composition by Maes, who was a student of the famous Dutch master Rembrandt Van Rijn. Maes, 1634-1693, initially followed Rembrandt's lead by painting biblical stories, but later discovered his own talent for depicting domestic scenes and portraits, which became

Tony Curtis files for divorce

Lee Curtis, the daughter of Janet Leigh.

Germany.

World News

Mother reunite with daughter 18 years later

COPENHAGEN IAI The only Danish word Yassin remembered common figures after her Sugarante abducted her for Name of nmark. Nanna Yasa been reunited with mother. Jytte Falker, met her daughter weekend for the first since her father abduqto Khartoum. Sudan in using a forged passpor

B.T. newspaper said. Falkenberg, 43, never in from her daughter after. ex-husband fled with child to his wealthy fam. Sudan. All she had a photograph of a 6-vephotographi of a oree-blond girl with African tures. Yassin, 24, was a as Muslim and taught Are forgetting her mother gue, except for the "Mor," the daily said lived under the thumb () father's family until the ried last year and move

Saudi Arabia with her husband. Through the L ish embassy there the cated her mother Ye-Husband called his morin-alw in July from a picbooth in Saudi Arabia. Inducing himself in English fore passing the phone Yassin. "For many year was in despair and a nany times in my slee Plakenberg said. Wor

an't describe how goo: eels" to be united again. aid. The couple intend ettle in Denmark, where: oreign Ministry has alrea iven Yassin a Danish peort, the newspaper said

Auseum buys ainting by utch master

HE HAGUE, Netherlas (P) - The Maurisia useum has spent 1.4 ml ilders (\$8(10,248) to be. inting by the 17th one itch master Nicolassimuseum spokesman & useum director E (pare said the painting : lace maker, is a deistic composition by & o was a student of ious Dutch master ? ndt Van Rijn. IL 4-1693, initially folks: nbrandt's lead by part. ical stories, but latere red his own tak#™ icting domestic 😂 🕏 portraits, which here

ny Curtis es for divorce

ANGELES (AP) r Tony Curtis has it livorce from his loss citing irreconcilable# ces. There was no profor alimony for the in the papers, filed: Angeles County Super: t. There also was a on of a division of me Curtis, ou, and le ch Curtis, 32 were wa 28, 1993. They shared: ingeles home and bac illdren, said publici er Walsh Curtis ste more than 100 file ing "Some Like it Hot t this year. (we went heart bypeand lost the son E. th his third wife, to Leslie Allen. Cur e other grown al neluding actress jam irtis, the daughter i æigh.

ng July ts beer to y levels

ADEN. German - Germans, alical he world's most e beer drinkers, et. mselves during it t wave, the very grad Statistics Office baden reported s of German be by 10.0 per cent be om the year earlies sitters - up 1.1 mi July last year surprise. sales were made!

A: Body ails animal ; criteria

AFP) for the all Society for the n of Cruelty to RSPCA) will establish the reserve to path RSPCA) will take hoppers to god m from the Rod ailers with "higher adards". Said the adards ". The countday, ball Saturday challe sting. although has cumpaign

al testing.

Bosnian Serbs vote on peace plan SARAJEVO (R) - Bosnian Serbs streamed to makeshift polling stations Saturday to begin voting in a two-day referendum expected to con-firm their leaders' steadfast rejection of the latest peace plan for their warring coun-

The first ballot papers were posted shortly after 0700 (0500 GMT) in a poll described by the Bosnian Serbs' former patrons in Belgrade as a farce which will confirm Bosnia's Serbs as isolated and

The vote was called to back the repeated rejection by the Bosman Serb leadership of a big power plan that would end the war by dividing the country roughly in half be-tween the Serbs and a Muslim-Croat federation.

Bosnía's Serbs, a third of the pre-war population and now on 70 per cent of the territory, object to giving up land their superior war machine won from Muslim foes and say the plan would leave their territories divided, weak and indefensi-

Defying denunciation and blockade by Serbia's President Slobodan Milosevic and pressure from Russia and the West, they have gone ahead with the poll, demanding the maps of division be redrawn.

"I expect the people will reject not the peace plan but the map. Then we will ask for another map. We expect a new conference, a new peace effort," Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic said after voting in Pale, the Serb stronghold outside Sarajevo.

Electoral organisers say a million people will vote in 82 polling stations across the country, but independent observers suggest only 750,000 people live in Serbheld Bosnia, nearly half of

whom are below voting age. Two years of ethnic war and consequent population movement have left voting lists meaningless. In trenches above Sarajevo groups of soldiers voted by roll-call, not by secret ballot, and gave a unanimous voice for rejec-

On the morning of the poli Bosnian Serb leader continued to press their defiant argument on Serb television, the only source of information for most of their people. "If people decide to accept the map, then it would spell capitulation," said the speak-

er of the Bosnia Serb Assembly Momcilo Krajisnik. "I believe people will reject it almost unanimously and are aware they will face suffer-

Bosnian Serbs already face

higher food prices after Mr. Milosevic shut his borders with Bosnia, angered by defiance by Mr. Karadzic and others and anxious to avoid further sanctions.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev is due in Belgrade Sunday to press Mr. Milosevic to allow interna-tional monitoring of the Bosnta blockade and is thought he will offer to ease sanctions on rumo Yugoslavia as a reward for cooperation.

But Bosnia's Serbs believe they will survive economic isolation and can also fend off military pressure to agree to peace. They have begun a verbal barrage to warn the West of the repercussions of U.S.-led moves to lift the arms embargo on Bosnia's Muslim-led government.

Mr. Karadzic has told a German news magazine Bosnian Serbs would kidnap U.N. peacekeepers, shoot down NATO planes and detain foreigners in concerted disobedience of U.N. resolutions if the embargo were raised.

Warnings from the United Nations and European govemments of the repercussions of the U.S. move to help equip the lightly armed Bosnian army have increased. Many countries, afraid of a new explosion of

fighting, have said they will withdraw their troops from U.N. duty.

The U.N. special envoy Yasushi Akashi said Thursday a pre-emptive pullout of peacekeepers from exposed Muslim enclaves might be needed even before the embargo ended, leaving their populations unprotected from any Serb attack.

One of his military planners, Canadian Major-General Ray Crabbe, later told reporters that thousands of NATO troops might be needed on the ground to protect U.N. peacekeepers retreating, a commitment fraught with danger. French Defence Minister

Francois Leotard warned Washington in a newspaper interview that its policy meant the abandonment of the European policy of containing the Bosnian war via a U.N. ground presence and risked spreading the conflict.

Mr. Leotard said lifting the embargo would endanger the U.N. mission and force European countries to pull their troops out.

Thousands of NATO troops would have to be deployed in Bosnia-Herzegovina to ensure the pullout and the Americans, rather than easing up a solu-



Refugees, U.N. soldiers and Croatian police gather at the border crossing between Bosnia and Croatia at Turanj village,

tion to the crisis, would find themselves on the frontline,"

Mr. Milosevic's split with Bosnian Serb leaders has left ordinary people in Serbia confused and divided over whether their ethnic kin across the border should re-

ject yet another peace plan. Bosnian Serbs began voting Saturday in a two-day referendum on the peace plan drawn up by major pow-

"It's a very difficult question, whether they should accept the plan or not," said a middle-aged saleswoman at a furniture store in Belgrade.

Zorica Uskovic, 34, said she could not blame the Bosnian Serbs if they reject the peace plan as expected.

where several thousand refugees from western Bosnia cross the Croatian border (AFP photo)

She was angered by Mr. Milosevic's decision to cut off ties with the Bosman Serbs to force them to accept the peace deal which would divide their former Yugoslav republic roughly in half be-tween Serbs and their Muslim-Croat adversaries.

"I think it's an insane decision by Milosevic to close the border. I don't know what

he's doing. Maybe he's trying to suck up to the West," Ms Uskovie said.

Mr. Mikisevic's sudden break with Bosnian Serb leaders has left neople confused, as they wish no harm to Serbs in Bosnia but yearn for an end to sanctions that

have caused their living stan-

dard to plummet.

Rwanda leaders intensify reconciliation efforts

KIGALI (R) - Leaders of Rwanda's new government visited the south Saturday to try to persuade Hutus and Tutsis they could live together again despite the horrific bloodshed of recent

President Pasteur Bizimungu, defence chief Major-General Paul Kagame, Prime Minister Faustin Twagiramungu and other government officials visited Butare city and surrounding areas to reassure people they were committed to peace.

"They preached a message of reconciliation and ethnic harmony. They preached a tolerance, but they also pledged punishment for those who have caused so much trouble for ordinary Rwandans," a senior official told Reuters in the capital Kigali. Mr. Bizimungu urged Rwandan intellectuals to travel to a zone previously under French military protection to convince refugees to return to their homes and

start farming again. Government leaders hope that a reconciliation mission by intellectuals will swell the

number of returnees. The Tutsi-dominated Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) government won power after a three-month offensive during which soldiers and militiamen of the Hutu regime carried out a campaign of genocide mainly targetting Tutsis. U.N. officials estimate up to one milion people may have been killed.

At least two million refugees fled over the borders into Zaire and other neighbouring countries following the RPF victory in July, fearing Tutsi reprisals.
Soldiers and officials of the defeated government have stoked the fears of refugees,

telling them they should stay in the refugee camps because they will be slaughtered if they return. The United Nations said last week that although some

killings were reported there was no evidence of a systematic revenge campaign by the On Friday, the U.N. refugee agency accused the

Hutu leadership of trying to institute a "reign of terror" in Rwandan camps in Za "It is easy for them to do this. These people have tasted blood and have done a lot of things with impunity, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) spokesman Fer-

nando Del Mundo said. In the Zairean border town of Goma, aid workers said there were few signs of any mass return to Rwanda. Another UNHCR spokes-

man, Ray Wilkinson, esti-mated repatriation had fallen to 3,000 a day from a previous 5,000. The total number of Hutus who had opted to return home was only 140,000, he added.

Aid officials say many Hutu wishing to return have been frightened into staying by Hutu militiamen who accuse those thinking of leaving of taking sides with the RPF. The death toll in the

crowded refugee camps remained intolerably high, aid workers said. Pneumonia, with seasonal rain making the plight of the



A French nurse from the humanitarian organisation Medecins Sans Frontieres comforts a Rwandan girl at the Mugunga refugee camp, west of the Zairean town of Goma (AFP photo)

refugees even worse, was becoming the latest killer to stalk the squalid camps, they

Mr. Wilkinson said the death toll of 300 a day was twice that in refugee camps set up after a similar exodus from Cambodia in 1979 aftei a Vietnamese invasion ousted the Khmer Rouge.

At the height of last month's cholera epidemic, several thousand people were dying each day. With clean

water and medical facilities now available, cholera is under control and the rate has fallen among the 800,000 refugees around the town. But aid workers say drug-resistant dysentery is still killing people.

Since the start of the mass exodus into eastern Zaire in mid-July, an estimated 46,000 people have died. In Kigali Saturday, a U.N. military spokesman said the first 115 Zambian reinforcements for the U.N. Assistance Mission in Rwanda had

The Zambians will take over in the former French protection zone from the Ghanaian troops now stationed there.

arrived in the capital.

Rwanda's former government army, accused of carrying out a campaign of genocide before its defeat by rebel forces, has regrouped and is training at a camp in eastern Zaire, the new prime minister and a U.N. military spokesman said Friday.

"We have reports Zairean authorities are assisting former Rwanda government forces in a camp some 60 kilometres from the town of Bukavu," Major John-Guy Plante told reporters.

Expelled Albanians swamp border

town

KAKAVIJA, Albania (R) -Albanian authorities Saturday used military trucks and private buses to take home thousands of Albanian immigrants expelled from

The Albanian government said Greece has deported 22,000 illegal Albanian immigrants since Aug. 15 in retaliation for the trial in Tirana of five ethnic Greek Albanians accused of spying

for Athens. Some 5,200 crossed the border from Greece on Friday alone. "We mobilised trucks from

a nearby military unit and used private buses to deal with the unusual influx of immigrants," borders station chief Pelivan Buzheri told Reuters.

Kakavija border point near the southern town of Gjirokastra, 300 kilometres south of Tirana, was swamped by more than 3,400 Albanians Friday. Most were on their way to their home town by Saturday afternoon.

The flow eased later Saturday with only some 200 people arriving at the border town from Greece,

Some of the immigrants spoke of abuse by Greek police and one man said they had confiscated the shoes of all the people on his bus travelling to the Albanian border.

"Police caught six of us for deportation but they did not harm us," Napoon Tice, 38. said on arriving at Kakavija. "All they said was 'go back and kill (Albanian President Sali) Berisha and then you can come here again,"

The deportations were the biggest since July last year when a quarrel between the two Balkan neighbours erupted over Albania's expulsion of a Greek cleric whom Tirana accused of fomenting separatism in the south where most of the country's ethnic Greeks live. Greece accuses Tirana of mistreating its Greek minor-

An estimated 350,000 Albanians work in Greece, earning cash for families scraping by in Europe's poorest country.

Despite regular, but smaller expulsions, the number of illegal Albanians in Greece remains unchanged as most of those expelled return, usually along mountain tracks across the border which are difficult to police. "Hundreds continue to

cross the border and we can do nothing to them. They come back after some days, worn out but still thinking of going back again," one bor-der official said. Greece is considering

toughening border controls stepping up expulsions. Albania also complains that Greece had expelled legal immigrants with regular visas and that it had confiscated their money.

Greece has rejected Tirana's offer of talks to resolve the dispute

Malaysia police crack down on Al Arqam

KUALA LUMPUR (R) -Malaysian police have arrested 13 suspected members of the banned Islamic Al Argam sect since the government declared the group a danger to public order, the state news agency Bernama reported Saturday.

The Home Affairs Ministry declared the movement unlawful Friday, clearing the way for police to act against the sect's estimated 10,000 hard-core followers in Malaysia.

Five Al Argam followers were arrested Friday in a Kuaia Lumpur Suburb as

they tried to lodge a police report against the national police chief for calling the sect a security threat. In addition, Bernama said

four people were arrested in both the states of Malacca and Negeri Sembilan Friday on charges of distributing Al Argam leaflets. Police Commissioner

Mohammad Said Awang said the movement was banned under Malaysia's Societies Act, which imposes a threemonth jail sentence and a 1,000 ringgit (\$393) fine on members of an unlawful soci-

Meanwhile four more In-

donesian provinces, including the special territory of Jakar-ta, have banned the Al Argam, the Antara News Agen-

cy said Saturday. Basrief Hanif, spokesman for the attorney general's office, was quoted as saying prosecutors from the four provinces had ordered Al Argam to cease activities in their area.

The provinces are Jakarta, Central and East Java and West Nusa Tenggara in eastern Indonesia. Similar action has been taken by the regional governments of North and West Sumatra, West Java, Riau and Aceh.

Carlos reportedly planned to kidnap Barbie

PARIS (R) - "Carlos the Jackal" considered kidnapping Nazi war criminal Klaus Barbie from his French prison a decade ago with the help of Jacques Verges, then Barbie's lawyer and now his own, a French newspaper said

Saturday. In the latest report on the alleged relationship between Carlos and his lawyer, Le Parisien said the international guerrilla hoped Barbie would disclose embarrassing information about relations between Western govern-

ments and former Nazis. It said East German secret services strongly opposed the

plan and it was dropped.
The Venezuelan-born guerrilla appointed Mr. Verges as his chief lawyer after he was spirited from Sudan to a French prison two

weeks ago to be probed over

a 1982 car-bomb attack in Paris.

Since then, the French press has published a stream of reports based on files of the former East German secret police Stasi alleging that Mr. Verges had been a member of the Carlos' group in

the early 1980s. Mr. Verges was not immediately available for comment on the report of Le Parisien. He has earlier dismissed the Stasi files as lacking any credibility and said allegations against him were aimed at forcing him to drop

Carlos' defence. Le Parisien published excerpts of a letter in English purportedly sent to Carlos in 1983 by his deputy Johanes Weinrich and found in Stasi files. "The Barbie affair is

very interesting," the letter

said. The newspaper said Carlos wanted Mr. Verges, mentioned under the codenames 'Herzog" and "Gabriel," to provide information on how to kidnap his client from pris-

on in the central city of Lyon. "As Carlos explains in instructions to Weinrich, the idea is to abduct and question Barbie ... his disclosures, cleverly publicised, will compromise Western regimes and denounce their relationship with war criminals," Le Parisien said.

A former Nazi Gestapo chief in Lyon, Barbie was handed over to France by Bolivia in 1983. Mr. Verges defended him at his 1987 trial. Barbie was given a life sentence for crimes against humanity and died in prison

Pakistan needs nuclear energy — president

if's disclosure.

ISLAMABAD (R) - Pakistani President Faroog Leghari, denying opposition leader Nawaz Sharif's claim that Pakistan has nuclear weapons, said Saturday his country needed nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

"If France can produce 80 per cent of its electricity from nuclear energy why cannot Pakistan also consider exploiting this renewable source of energy?" he said at a solar energy workshop. Pakistan imports two-thirds of its oil needs and its

2,000 megawatts less than demand. Mr. Leghari said Islamic countries should pool resources for research into renewable energy sources because technology embargoes

electricity output is about

imposed by the West were going to get worse." Pakistani commentators have voiced fears that the United States and other western countries may tighten technology restrictions on Pakistan following Mr. Shar-

Mr. Leghari said Mr. Sharwho was prime minister for 30 months until July 1993, had no access to current information on Pakistan's nuclear programme and should not make statements which could be exploited by the country's enemies.

"I think it is an unfortunate statement because it is not based on reality," he said. Mr. Sharif told a rally in the Pakistani-held part of Kashmir Tuesday that Pakis-

tan had an atomic bomb and any attack on it by India would set off a nuclear holocaust.

Pakistan officially insists that it can make nuclear bombs, but has decided not to. India, which exploded a nuclear device in 1974, also denies it has a nuclear arsen-

Neither country has signed the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, though Pakistan says it will if India does.

Mr. Sharif has accused Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of being soft towards India over disputed Kashmir and of trying to roll back Pakistan's nuclear programme under

U.S. pressure. His assertion that Pakistan is nuclear-armed has won praise from hardline nationalists who believe Islamabad has nothing to lose by claiming membership of the

world's nuclear club. Mr. Sharif's critics say he has betrayed the national interest, wrecking a policy of calculated ambivalence on the nuclear issue pursued by several previous governments, including his own.

Fighting stalls Cambodia hostage talks

PHNOM PENH (R) — Negotiations to free three Western hostages held by Khmer Rouge guerrillas have collapsed amid reports of renewed fighting around the rebels' southern Cambodia

"We haven't had any fresh news for two or three days because our contact group cannot get in." Secretary of State for Information Khicu Kanharith said. He did not

Khmer Rouge radio said Saturday that government forces had launched a major attack against the rebel stronghold, days before the Aug.

"On Aug. 25, 1994, the

rwo heads began a large scale campaign at the Phnom Vor (Vine Mountain) area," rebel radio said in a report monitored in Phnom Penh. "Twoheads" is a Khmer Rouge

The Khmer Rouge broadcast warned that the Phnom Penh government, the United States and other countries would be responsible if the captives were killed.

to eliminate people and re-sistance in the Phnom Vor

area even if this could lead to the deaths of the three foreigners.

"The two heads and Communist Yuon (Vietnam) and its allies must take complete responsibility for all consequences stemming from this campaign now and for the future," the broadcast said. Mark Stater, 28, a Briton:

Jean-Michel Braquet, 27, of France and David Wilson. 29, from Australia, were taken hostage on July 26 after a train ambush in which 13 They are believed to be

held at a Khrier Rouge stronghold known as Vine Mountain, about 150 kilometres south of Phnom Penh.

Angola, rebels report big battles in diamond area ported around the town of have been worth up to \$200 southeast of the main mining LUANDA (R) - Govern-Cuango in diamond-rich centre of Cafunfo, had served

ment media said Saturday Angolan forces were advancing on UNITA positions in the country's diamondproducing northeast region, where rebels said earlier they had seized a strategic town. State daily Jornal De Angola said government

northern oil enclave of Cabinda, held by UNITA and FLEC separatists. "UNITA soldiers are being pushed back towards the northern border with Zaire,"

forces were also near the

the paper said. It made no mention of Cacolo town, which UNITA said it took this week in a battle it said killed 73 government soldiers.

A UNITA statement faxed to Reuters in Lisbon Friday said Cacolo, in the Luanda ce which lies

as crucial support base for the government in their fight to control of the diamond-rich "After eight hours of fight-

ing on Aug. 22. (UNITA forces) captured Cacolo. This is the only logistical support base for the MPLA offensive against Cafunfo," a state-ment signed by UNITA Chief of Staff General "Ben Ben" Arlindo Chenda Pena said. "(Government) forces suf-

fered 73 confirmed fatalities. The rest of the garrison was pushed into a mine field, which they had laid themselves, where a large number were in agony until they died," it added.

The report could not be independently confirmed. The Luanda daily said heavy fighting was also re-

Luanda Norte province. "UNITA still holds areas of small scale mining at Chitolo, Luio, Mbula, Chingufo and Cuilo," the paper said.

Its report too could not be confirmed independently. The government launched campaign earlier this year to derive UNITA out of Luanda Norte in order to stop the rebels mining diamonds there to finance their

war effort. In July, the army recaptured Cafunto, which con-trols the Cunago Valley and once accounted for about 90 per cent of Angola's diamond production, but UNITA claimed this week they still hold part of the town. Last year, UNITA smng-gled out Cafunfo'e entire di-

amond output, estimated to

Unofficial estimates out Angola's total diamond production last year at around \$250-million, most of which leaked north into Zaire from UNITA-held areas in Luanda

million.

Norte, UNITA funds most of its was effort with diamonds. UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) reported heavy government casualties last UNITA is also widely be-

lieved to operate in conjunc-

tion with one or more of the

FLEC (Front for the Liberation of the Enclave of Cabinda) factions inside Cabinda. bush war against the ruling MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) since independence from Portugal in 1975.

UNITA has been fighting a

las for the hostage drama to be resolved.

stronghold, a senior government official said Saturday.

ciaborate. 30 deadline set by the guerril-

term for the Cambodian govemment.

It said the Cambodian government had planned to use "whatever means necessary

people were killed.

A Rwandan refugee, armed with a machete, Mugunga camp, west of the Zairean town of walks past a boy carrying firewood at the Goma (AFP photo)

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Partner in future role

THE ONE-day state visit of Turkish President Suleiman Demirel to Jordan acquires an added significance in light of the progress on the peace front between the Arabs and Israel.

His Majesty the King and the Turkish leader will no doubt discuss the Washington Declaration and the latest developments in the peace process, and will share thoughts on the shape of the future in the region. Turkey is a very important regional power not only in geopolitical terms but also in economic terms. Suffice it to recall that the solutions of the deep water problems in the area cannot be expected to be reached without Turkey's participation and contribution. The kind of economic growth that is projected to materialise in the Middle East would no doubt involve Turkey as well.

On the bilateral level, Amman and Ankara have always enjoyed the best of relations. His Majesty King Hussein had paid several state visits to Turkey to cement these growing relations, and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has been as keen to build on what has already been achieved. We in Jordan continue to view Turkey as a key regional power that has a pivotal role to play in consolidating stability and security in this part of the world. The geographic proximity of Turkey to both the Arab World and Europe makes it an important bridge for greater links between this region and Europe.

se happy developments in the Turkish-Jordanian relations do not prosper in a vacuum but rather in the rich common religious and cultural traditions that bind the Turkish and Arab peoples as a whole. On the political front, Turkey has steadfastly defended Arab rights within the context of the Arab-Israeli conflict, which is, hopefully, being resolved once and for all. With regard to Iraq, Ankara has been in the forefront of the countries that are calling for relaxing the sanctions on that beleaguered Arab Gulf state in a bid to normalise international and regional relations with it. The full stability of the region cannot be expected to be attained in isolation from Baghdad.

Turkey is opening some doors in that direction and it deserves to be commended for this initiative.

Much more can of course be done to make the regional story a real success. For now, however, we are both confident and hopeful that the visit of the Turkish president, and the Crown Prince's visit to Turkey, will be two important links in the chain to achieve that success.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

WITH THE end of the naval blockade on Aqaba and the interception of Aqaba-bound ships, Jordan feels like a nightmare had ended. Indeed said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Saturday, the Jordanian people felt that the siege on their port, which has been in place since August 1990, was meant as a tool to punish them for their nationalist and principled stand vis-a-vis foreign intervention in Arab affairs. the paper said. It said the siege that cost the country a fortune was used as to exercise pressure on the Kingdom and force it to change its stand and accept foreign military intervention in Arab affairs. The siege was a penalty that Jordan had to pay for being supportive of the Iraqi brothers in the face of aggression and for the Kingdom's condemnation of this aggression and its sympathy with the Iraqi people, added the paper. Lifting the siege on Aqaba, said the paper, is a national achievement which would not be complete before the end of the U.N.-imposed embargo on the Iraqi people.

THE INFLUX of Cuban refugees to the United States has placed Washington face-to-face with a new crisis for which it has no solution, said a columnist in Al Ra'i daily. Washington's siege of Cuba and its sanctions against Haiti, North Korea, and Iraq has achieved nothing except more hatred for the United Society and more problems for the American

people, said [a. :] lasarweh. The embargo on Iraq, which Washington in as on maintaining, has not given the Kewaitis any sense of security nor has it relieved the Turks from their financial burdens. But it has definitely caused damage to the economies of Europe, Jordan and the Palestinians, added the writer. By opening the door for the Cubans to emigrate Fidel Castro has swamped the United States with unwanted Cubans, said the writer. He said that American policy of starving nations and imposing sanctions against regimes has clearly failed to achieve any fruitful

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

Measuring the pulse of the people

ACCORDING TO a public opinion survey conducted between Aug. 18-20 by the Centre for Strategic Studies in the University of Jordan, some 80.2 per cent of the Jordanians were found to support the peace process in general and the Washington Declaration in particular. Around three quarters of the population believe that Jordan will recover through peace all its rights in land, water, security and refugees. 82.5 per cent expect the economy to improve considerably.

At the outset, I should declare my full confidence in the public opinion surveys conducted from time to time by the Centre for Strategic Studies. Those surveys are perfectly scientific. The purpose behind them is to find out the facts and help the decision makers see the situation as it is. The centre has never used surveys to influence public opinion instead of just testing the water and measuring the pulse of

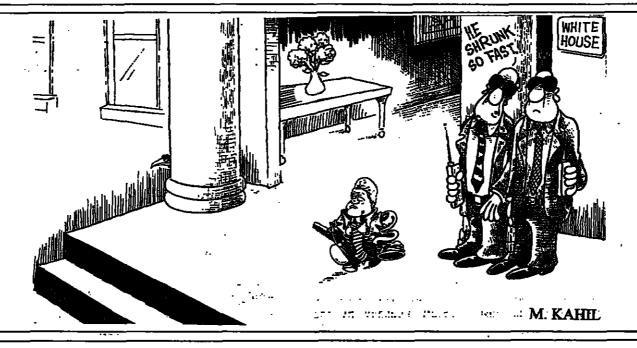
Of course, the Centre for Strategic Studies can publish a pre-cooked survey, but if it does, it can cheat us only once and then lose its credibility forever. Credibility is the essence of the centre, without which it will lose justification for its very existence. We know for sure that the Centre's Director Mustafa Hamarneh would risk his head rather than risking his own credibility or that of the centre. Therefore we read the survey with respect and trust.

If there is a question mark that is worth looking at, it is the idea that the positive results arrived at by the survey may have been the reason why the survey findings were made public. There is a real doubt that, in the opposite direction, the whole survey may be kept in confidence and not released to the public. To close this possible gap, it is recommended that the centre should announce in advance that it is going to make a public opinion survey. This announcement should serve as an implied commitment to reveal the findings of the survey, no matter whether they were favourable or otherwise, from the government view point.

Contrary to speculations, the results of the survey did not produce a surprise. It only confirmed what is obvious - that over 80 per cent of the Jordanian people do in fact support the peace process, the Washington Declaration and ending the state of war with Israel against Israel's recognition of Jordan's rights in land, water, security and the return of displaced Palestinians. Such a historical deal became thinkable and acceptable after reaching agreement between Israel and the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, which settled the Palestinian question, which is the core of the Arab-Israeli dispute.

It may be that the questionnaire confused the public regarding possible compensation of refugees and displaced Palestinians. Financial compensation is feasible for the refugees of 1948 if they were allowed to return to their homes in Israel but preferred not to exercise this right because they don't want to live under Israeli rule. However, compensation for the displaced Palestinians of 1967 must be out of question, because they should be given the right to return to their towns, villages, or camps in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. They deserve no compensation if they decline to take up the opportunity to claim their homeland where their property in the West Bank and Gaza will be at their disposal under Palestinian rule.

Finally, we should express our genuine fear that the ratio of peace supporters may decline rapidly with time if the peace process was slow and negotiations were unnecessarily prolonged, and if it became evident to the public that Israel has stalled and will meet Jordanian legitimate claims by Israeli false counterclaims, which may extend negotiations for a long time. Stalling by Israel is an option that the balance of power allows Israel to exercise, but in that case, it will be risking to lose the right moment to strike a full peace treaty with Jordan and to break the momentum in Jordanian public opinion which was created mainly by on all-out move initiated by His Majesty King Hussein who was drawing on his huge mutual confidence with his people.



Nationalists emerge from shadows in Romania

By Peter Bale

BUCHAREST - The sleeping dogs of national-ism have awoken in Romania to claim a pivotal role in keeping the old communist elite in power in the last East European state where Stalinism's heritage still lin-

Members of the Xenophobic anti-Hunga-rian RNUP party took two cabinet posts last week in a reshuffle which exposed how reliant on nationalist support the Party of Social Democracy (PSD) govern-ment of Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu has be-

Now anti-Semites want a place in government, and opposition parties fear Romania could be sliding into extremism.

"We want to stress the negative consequences of this aberrant symbiosis between a party which calls which the international community has called fascist," said Corneliu Coposu of the National Peasant

Romanian National Unity Party candidates tok the farm and communications ministries -- crucial to market reforms that should repair the damage wrought by dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

It was the first time that RNUP candidates had officially been given seats at the cabinet table, something Western envoys had warned Mr. Vacaroiu's minority government

With just 34 per cent of the seats in Romania's fragmented parliament and facing an increasingly stronger opposition bloc, Mr. Vacaroiu has needed the eight per cent of seats held by the RNUP to survive a handful of no-confidence motions.

Analysts fear the greater only flexed its muscles by threatens Romania's delicate ethnic fabric. While Romania is far from becoming another Bosnia, it has its flashpoints.
"The risk is that this will

increase the fears of the Hungarian minority that they face an onslaught against their cultural and educational rights," said one Western analyst. "This can only radicalise

Hungarian militants." Despite its new-found status, after several years on the fringe of Romanian politics, the RNUP nationalists insisted they

were not dancing for joy at

the cabinet posts.
"We did not drink champagne," said RNUP deputy leader and senate vice chairman Ion Gavra. "There is nothing to cele-brate. This is a difficult step which means hard work."
In the past the RNUP has

Transylvania's city of Cluj where party boss Gheorghe Funar has suppressed the Hungarian language.
European envoy Max
Van der Stoel, high com-

missioner for minority rights from the Conference of Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), last week warned that "extremists" put at risk decades of peaceful coexistence in

Horia Rusu, executive resident of the 1993 Liberal Party, saw grave risks in the RNUP's influence in government. "Accepting a chauvinist

party in government will in the long term compromise the chances for an historic reconciliation between Romania and Hungary," Mr. Rusu said.

"There is a risk Romania will be isolated more

Saudi satellite battle is another AWACS affair

The writer directs research on security and arms con-trol at Israel's DESA Centre for Strategic Studies at Bar-Illan University. The article is reprinted from the

By Gerald M. Steinberg

SAUDI ARABIA's effort to gain access to a highly accurate photo-satellite from the United States may trigger a conflict reminscent of the 1981 AWACAS affair. As in the case of the AWACS, the satellite project involves hundreds of millions of dollars, very sophisticated technology and the potential for major damage to Israel's national security.

The process began in early 1994, when the U.S. government approved a request to license the sale of remote-sensing satellite services and technology. For many years the costs of these systems, such as LADNSAT, grew, while competition from the French SPOT satellite, as well as Russian systems, cut revenues. The U.S. decided to privatise the development and operation of these satellites. Three firms, Litton-Itek, G.D.E., and Orbital Sciences, formed a consortium to build the EVEGIASS contallite EYEGLASS satellite.

After beginning project development, this consor-tium found that the market was very limited. The Saudis decided to buy an equity stake, and the firms that are involved, as well as the U.S. Commerce Department, have an intense economic interest in keeping the Saudis in the pro-

For Israel, the key issue is the potential strategic impact. With EYEGLASS. objects as small as one metre can be identified. (In comparison, the LAND-SAT has a resolution of

about 30 square metres).

Although theoretically designed for civilian purposes, EYEGLASS will pick out and monitor planes parked on a runway, tanks, trucks, missiles, etc. It will also be able to monitor construction projects and traf-fic into and out of buildings. This will give the Saudi army, and other Arab military forces that will have access to the data, the ability to assess Israeli strengths and weaknesses, and to plan a precision first strike against bases, plants and other facilities. Defenders of the sale

claimthat the field of view of this satellite can be res-tricted through electronic "shutter control," but this is quite difficult, given the geography. For many years, the

Israeli army and Defence Ministry have sought to aquire an orbital capability to monitor activities in Iran and Iraq. The importance of an independent overhead reconnaissance capability was emphasised during the 1991 Gulf war, when Israel realised that the U.S. had almost no information on the Iraqi nuclear weapons programme, and had failed to located mobile SCUDmissile launchers. After the war, Defence Minister Moshe Arens revealed that the Ofek programme was designed to produce a re-connaissance satellite.

Although two test platforms have been launched successfully, an operational satellite will cost hundreds of millions of dollars, and

nological effort. According to reports, Israeli requests for American assistance and technology, or for cooperation in this area, have all been rebuffed.

The Israeli government can also be expected to note that in making the technology available to the Saudis, the U.S. government is violating pledges not to sell weapons or technology more advanced than that available to Israel. This pledge, which goes back to the era of Nixon and Kissinger, was recently reiterated by U.S. President Clinton in meetings with Israeli Prime Minister Rabin.

In the AWACS case, the sale was eventually approved in a very narrow vote in the U.S. Senate, but only after a costly fight. Now, in the middle of the Middle East peace process, and with no other foreign policy successes, the Clinton administration cannot afford a similar battle. Unless Israel is convinced that the Saudi role in the EYE-GLASS project will not post a threat to its security, the conflict is likely to esca-

Elections mark turning point in Mexico

By Peter Bate Reuter

WASHINGTON - Sunday's election marked a turning point for Mexico's politics, according to United States analysts who see the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) on a firm course to democratisation.

However, Monday the U.S. government and most specialists held back from giving the election a clean bill, citing reports of irregu-larities especially in rural

areas.
"Politics in Mexico will be different in the future. (PRI's presidential candidate) Ernesto Zedillo will not be as powerful as his predecessors," said former assistant secretary for Inter-American affairs Bernard Aronson.

"The PRI will probably not have automatic majorities in congress and the opposition comes out stronger from the elections. We'll see give-and-take politics and compromise, added the former Clinton administration official

According to Mr. Aronson, a weaker presidency would not cause foreign investors to shy away from Mexico — rather the con-

"What would have created instability would be to try to maintain the old political system, which even members of the PRI admitted that was unsustainable," he said.

The PRI has governed Mexico for nearly 65 years, winning every national poll with the help of a vast array

For Sunday's election, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari pledged to hold the cleanest and freest in Mexico's history.

However, State Departine Shelley said she could not state that the election had been fair because it was too early to make such a pronouncement.

"From all of the reports that we're seen, (the) elections... appear to have been conducted in an orderly, peaceful fashion despite some irregularities," she

Mark Falcoff, a Latin America analyst with the American Enterprise Insti-tute who travelled to Mexico to observe the poll, said that some incidents of foul play took place Sunday but not in the scale of vote-

rigging of the 1988 election. In that occasion PRI's Salinas emerged victorious after a mysterious breakdown in the ballot-tallying computer system.

The process was generally acceptable. The opposition will continue to criticise the run-up to the elec-tion, and they certainly have a point on the issue of equal access to television," said Mr. Falcoff.

Nora Lustig, of the Brookings Institution, said that reports of inegularities were more frequent in rural

areas.
"Widespread voteproblems for the Clinton administration, as it would give U.S. critics of NAFTA more munition," said the Mexico specialist.

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Mr. Clinton obtained congressional approval of the North American Free Trade Agreement last year. overcoming opposition in his own Democracy Party to Mexico's inclusion in the

Regarding the vote, eco-nomist William Cline said PRI's strong showing sug-gested Mexicans had preferred stability over change.
"Basically voters looked

back at the last six years and decided that the economy had been better managed than in the past. added Mr. Cline, a senior fellow at the Institute for International Economics. Under Mr. Salinas Mex-

ico attracted record levels for foreign investment and attained enough stability to join the OECD group of the world's most developed countries.

The victory of the book-

ish Zedillo, a Yale-trained economist, also heralds a strong continuity of Mr. Salinas' market-oriented policies, said Mr. Cline.

"Politics in Mexico will be different in the future. (PRI's presidential candidate) Ernesto Zedillo will not be as powerful as his predecessors" former assistant secretary for inter-American ment Spokeswoman Christ- affairs Bernard Aronson.

> "There will be a greater emphasis on social spending but the basics of Salinas approach will remain - balanced budgets, free trade and opening of certain sectors where foreign investment was restricted," he

> added. Isaac Cohen, director of the Washington Office of the U.N. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, said the next president will face a tough balancing act to spur growth, beef up social prog-rammes and avoid prodding inflation.

"Mexico's economy suffered great shocks early this year due to the chiapas Indian uprising, the assassina-tion of (PRI presidential candidate Luis Donaldo) Colosio and a rash of kidnappings of executives," Mr. Cohen said.

However, in the second quarter a substantial increase in public spending helped propel economic growth to a 3.8 per cent rate, against a 1.3 per cent decrease for all of 1993.

The current administration might also do some-thing about letting the peso slip a little more against the U.S. dollar to stimulate exports," Mr. Cohen said.

LETTER

'A gross misrepresentation of the truth'

To the Editor:

E.A. Yaghi's column, "Someplace called home" (Jordan Times, Aug. 25-26) is a gross misrepresentation of the truth. In particular, her comments concerning the librarian at the American Cultural Centre are insensitive, totally unwarranted and quite possibly defamatory. I have known the said librarian for close to 20 years and she has always been the epitome of professionalism and efficiency. She is unstinting in her assistance to library patrons, indefatigable in her pursuit of facts, large or small, and completely scrupulous in her professional duties. Moreover, contrary to Ms. Yaghi, she speaks English with great fluency and panache. Perhaps Ms. Yaghi should do herself a favour and reexamine the motives (conscious or unconscious) that led her to pen her tirade. In so doing, she might find that she has unwittingly impugned the character and accomplishments of a fine person, and a competent professional besides.

> Hala Fattab, Amman.

Features

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Mexico specialist.

Mr. Clinton obcongressional approthe North America the North America Trade Agreement la overcoming opposit to Mexico's inclusion.

Regarding the vote PRI's strong showing gested Mexicans har ferred stability over the Basically voten back at the last sit. and decided that the nomy had been benerated than in the Hadded Mr. Cline, 2 g

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by secularists, liberals and lians and fundamentalists have been killed in the insurgency, which has inncy. She is unsight indefatigable creasingly targetted foreigners, with over 50 non-Algerians killed since last and recamine by

ment has been sentenced to death by other members of the Armed Islamic Group, a newspaper reported Satur-

ated by firing more than 50 mortar and howitzer rounds The leader of the Armed Islaon the villages of Zawtar, Hamra and Kabrikha, which mic Group who reportedly declared the rebel governthey pinpointed as the guer-

Jordan Times Tel: 667171

Algeria closes border with Morocco in row

escaped.

(Continued from page 1)

The two countries, which have a history of strained relations, abolished visas after forming the five-country Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) in 1989 which links them to Libya, Mauritania and Tunisia. The Algerian Foreign Ministry said the visa requirement was a violation of the AMU treaty.

Two Spanish tourists were killed and two persons wounded on Wednesday when three hooded gunmen sprayed the lobby of the Atlas Asni hotel in Mar-rakesh with automatic weapons fire before making off with 10,000 dirhams

(\$1,130) in cash. Morocco's Interior Ministry said two men arrested with "war weapons" in the central city of Fez were part of a mainly Algerian gang intent on robbing banks and attacking security forces and

Earlier this month three unidentified gunmen tried to hijack an armoured vehicle which was carrying funds to a bank in Casablanca but they were foiled by the guards and

Morocco's Interior Ministry said entry visas would in future be required of all visitors of Algerian nationality or origin. Those already in the country must report to the police as soon as possible

to regularise their situation. There was no hint in the Moroccan statement that the arrested gunmen were linked to Algeria's Muslim radicals. They appear to be just

gangsters based in Europe

who think Morocco is a soft target," one diplomat said. The 1989 signing of the AMU treaty in Marrakesh ended 13 years of hostility caused by the war in Western Sahara where Algerian backed Polisario guerrillas are fighting for independence of the former Spanish colony

claimed by Morocco. The two neighbours cut diplomatic ties and closed the border in 1976 after more than 30,000 Moroccans resident in Algeria were expelled. There was a similar crisis in 1963 when the two countries waged a brief war on their disputed border.

But strains have remained. Morocco offered no condolences when an earthquake killed 164 people in Algeria on Aug. 18. Algiers offered none when a Moroccan airliner crashed on Aug. 21 kill-

ing 44 people.

Tourism ministry figures show 1,237,946 Algerians visited Morocco last year, down from 1.7 million in

Diplomats said the number of Algerian residents in Morocco was unknown. They include businessmen, teachers and others who have fled political violence which has killed more than 4,000 people in Algeria since early 1992.

2 Israelis killed; Hamas claims responsibility

(Continued from page 1)

arrests on Saturday after the

Tel Aviv attack. Israel's police chief, Assaf Hefetz, called for Israelis to show restraint and said employers were often to blame for such attacks because they took on cheap Palestinian labourers without work per-

Dozen of Palestinians without work permits were rounded up Saturday in the Hamle area where the bodies ere found, Mr. Hefetx said.

Police also sent reinforcements to Ramle, which has a large Israeli Arab community, to prevent retaliatory

The two Israelis, aged 22 and 24, had gone missing after working to install a lift, and their bodies were discovered late Friday by coileagues after a search.
A slogan of Hamas was

found scrawled on a packet of cigarettes nearby. Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, condemning the attack as "very serious," said the answer was to help the eco-

nomy of the autonomous Gaza Strip to lower the number of Palestinians seeking work in Israel.

There was those who believe we can shoot at Hamas with cannons or with guns and be done with them. We tried that route for many

years with partial results," he told army radio. "In my opinion the way to liquidate terrorism is by genting rid of the reasons for it, political and economic.

Zakaria Al Agha, housing minister for the Palestinian self-rule government, issued a soft condemnation, saying we are committed to our agreement with Israel. We are against anything that

violates the agreement."
Israel has pledged to help the cash-starved PLO seek funding for self-rule in Gaza and Jericho. Tens of thousands of Gazans work in mostly menial jobs in Israel because of a lack of work at home.

Egyptian extremists threaten Cairo meeting

(Continued from page 1)

The Gamaa also claimed Friday's attack in southern

Egypt.
Some of the more extreme critics say the conference is an attempt either to discourage population growth in Islamic countries or to promote liberal views on sex and the fami-

The Egyptian government has adopted the same critical attitude towards the conference "programme of action" but has defended the right of

the participants to discuss it in Cairo. The government had hoped the conference would rehabilitate Egypt as a safe destination for tourists, many

by the political violence of the past two years.

More than 400 people have been killed in Egypt since the

of whom have been deterred

them either policemen or members of militant organisations. Most of the casualties have been in southern Egypt, where the Gamaa is

The government has been mobilising the security forces in preparation for the conference and has said repeatedly that it has the security situa-

tion under control. One diplomat said on Saturday that the Gamaa statement would have been much more worrying if the attack on the Spaniards had taken place in Cairo rather which lies on the Nile 480

"At this stage there's no reason to believe it will deter anyone," he added. "The

security forces are being very

be named.

in Naga Hammadi, kilometres south of the capit-

Interior Minister Hassan Al Alfi has said extra security was in place for the populathat all delegates would be safe from attack.

While travel agents played down the bus attack on Saturday, analysts warned that the battle was not over.

"The Gamaa has certainly suffered setbacks but I doubt if it has been eradicated. Its disorganisation must just have been temporary," said a Western expert, declining to

But Elhami Zayat of Emeco, one of the travel agents in charge of preparing for the Cairo conference, said he believed the tour-bus attack was an isolated action.

"I don't think the terrorists can carry out attacks like they did a year ago," he said.

"The ringleaders are behind On Tuesday, the government faces another test for the conference when a court hears a case filed by Islamic activists arguing that to other. stage the forum would violate

Suddenly, Milosevic wears a peacemakers halo

Reuter

BELGRADE — Slobodan Milosevic, once the sinister manipulator who persuaded his people to fight for greater Serbia, wears a peacemaker's halo nowadays, at least in the eyes of the outside world.

The Serbian president, whom the West used to describe as a suspected war criminal, has become a lynchain in efforts to end the war in Bosnia.

While Bosnian Serb leaders bang the drum for rejection of an international peace plan in a referendum this weekend. Mr. Milosevic is at the centre of diplomacy aimed at bring-

ing the bloodshed to an end after 28 months. Courted by the big powers with their scheme to divide Bosnia between its Serbs and a federation of Muslims and Croats, Mr. Milosevic has turned ferociously on his former Serb proteges and their policy of

defiance.

Discarding the agressive nationalism that thrust him to power in 1988, his priority has become the economic survival of rump Yugoslavia and the lifting of ruinous U.N. sanctions. Serbs in Serbia regard their wilv leader as an arch cynic or a political chamenecessity dictates without

leaving a footprint.

To the hardline nationalists at home and in Bosnia. he is incorrigibly devious, a traitor to the cause of Serb unity for which so many have died on Croatian and Bosnian battlefields since

Unable to coerce the Bosnian Serbs by argument, the former banker schooled in the old Yugoslav Communist Party apparat has turned to force

to get his way. When their hardline parliament rejected the peace plan, he imposed an economic blockade of his own, cutting off the flow of money and vital military supplies to the Bosnian Serb Army (BSA).

The big power authors of the peace plan want only one more proof of Serbian good conduct before starting to unshackle the sanctions that have helped destroy a standard of living that was the envy of the former Communist bloc.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev will visit Belgrade on Sunday to persuade Milosevic that international monitors on Serbia's border with Bosnia are indispensable.

The Serb president has meanwhile set out to destroy Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, presi-



dent of the self-proclaimed Serb Republic in Bosnia and symbol of its defiance. Yugoslav President

appointee, has denounced Mr. Karadzie and his supporters as war criminals and profiteers pursuing the con-

The unprecedented attack during the referendum was widely publicised by the Yugoslav media which pursued its own campaign against the Bosnian Serbs more accustomed to sympathetic encouragement from that quarter.

Mr. Milosevie's factic has been to preach a message of moderation to the Bosnian Serbs that would have sat easily on the lips of

any U.N. peacemaker. The Bosman Serbs risked crossing the line between a : legitimate was to defend their national interests and one of conquest, he warned. Even if their half of Bosma was worse than the Muslim-Croat share. they should accept it

Nor did he spare their leaders who have waved far on war boory while fighters and their families suffered and died on a weekly pitt-

The Bosman Seeb leadership, with its control of the country's ramshackle political structure, expects to prevail in the referen-

But Mr. Milosevic's relentless pragmatism has pushed their backs closer to the wall and made moderation respectable again for the many ordinary Serbs who have always wondered what this war is about,

Speculation mounts over Korean secession

By Kate Webb Agence France Presse

leon, shifting his ground as

SEOUL - Speculation has mounted here over opposition to North Korea's heirapparent Kim Jong-II - fuelled by the first report of dissidence in Pyongyang but bedevilled by lack of information and possible disinformation.

A reported dissident leaflet drop in the tightly secured diplomatic compound in the North Korean capital detail Tuesday by the South's Yonhap news agen-

But it was met initially with scepticism by diplomats and analysts here, precisely because of the history of bitter counterpropaganda between the two Koreas aimed at des-

tabilising one another. In the words of one Western diplomat: "I would't believe it unless I saw a picture of a diplomat on his doorstep in Pyongyang on Saturday morning with a leaflet in one hand and his morning milk bottle in the

But the diplomats, like the South Korean government, say they are increasingly unnerved by the fact that it is 49 days since Kim II-Sung died — and North Korea still remains without a president or a

party chief. "There is growing uncertainty over the situation in North Korea," one senior Western diplomat told AFP here.

So reclusive and secretive is the Stalinist regime that even the CIA admitted last month it was at a loss to evaluate Kim Jong-II, or the rumours that he was at odds with the powerful

North Korean military. Pyongyang watchers have been left sifting through "the chicken entrails" of broadcasts and television which showed the junior Kim at his father's funeral.

silent and gaunt. He was - depending on which analysts once listened to - suffering from diabetes, cirrhosis of the liver, partial paralysis or all

But doubts over the leaflet drop report fell Wednes-

Team finds Cyprus

temple dedicated

day when a German diplomat in Tokyo said the two German diplomats at the Swedish embasy in Pyongyang had confirmed that "leaflets were dropped in

Though the diplomat said the content of the leaflets was unknown and was reluctant to mention at which embassies they had been found, the confirmation galvanised the South Ko-

several other embassies.

rean government. President Kim Young-Sam, whose government took the report seriously Tuesday, immediately cancelled scheduled meetings and ordered an all out effort to step up monitoring of the North, a presidential

The leaftlets, according to Yonhap, had urged the "overthrow" of Kim-Jong-II. 52, Kim II-Sung's reclusive eldest son, who has been groomed since the 1970's to replace his father.

spokesman said.

Yonhap speculated that the their purpose had been to show the outside world that there was resistance to Mr. Kim and that the resistance was top-level - be-

Reuter

dynasties.

both prime ministers,

Ms. Kumaratunga's

mother, Sirima Bandar-

anaike, made history in

1960 when she became the

world's first woman prime

minister, succeeding hus-

band Solomon Bandar-

anaike after his assassina-

South Asia's other

ties, were quick to con-

cause no ordinary man could gain access to the heavily guarded complex. On the other hand, Yonhap cautioned, it could have been a complicated ploy by the junior Kim to

unearth opponents. From the day of Kim Il-Sung's death, speculation had been widespread that Mr. Kim — pudgy, un-travelled and seemingly morose the few times he had been seen in public would have trouble filling the shoes of his dictator

But for a few weeks North Korea's official media put paid to the speculation, proclaiming Kim Jong-Il the new "great leader". Still, the two top posts held by his ebullient father - the presidency and the general secretary of the par-

father.

ty remained vacant. Then on Sunday came the most tangible, and most tantalising, clue -- a North Korean radio reference to the dangers of 'falling prey to treacherous conspirators... if we fail to solve the succession problem.'

It was the first reference to a succession "problem." from a country which does not officially recognise problems. And it came on top of a report by Pyongyang's mouthpiece Korea Central News Agency (KCNA) which called Kim Jong-Il's appearance at the funeral "haggard."

The haggard reference came in a report of a doting letter to the jumor Kim, who reputedly prefers to work and entertain into th small hours, from a nineyear-old girl who urged him to "go to bed early" and eat proper meals.

But many North Korea watchers have cautioned that the isolated regime matches to its drum, and that Sept. 9 and Oct. 10 are dates to watch for a real indication of where the power hes in Pyongyang.

Sept. 9 is the anniversary of the founding of the country in the ashes of World War II and the birth of the cold war, and Oct. 10 is the official anniversary of the

tion conference and vowed Egypt's constitution. Gamaa took up arms, most of Shaath to sign accord on self-rule on Monday

(Continued from page 1)

that its forces might reenter the Palestinian self-rule zone if the violence continued. Referring to the Israeli-PLO peace deal, Israel police chief Assaf Hefetz told a news conference in the town

of Ramle, scene of the Friday We are three months into implementation of the agreement and this is a test of the (law-enforcement) systems, how they function in a case

"The results of this coop-

cration will definitely have

consequences as to what hap-

(Continued from page 1)

in January 1992 after the

military cancelled the second

round of elections the then

legal FIS was poised to win.

kham were freed in February

after two years in prison in

order to make contact with

clandestine FIS leaders with a

view to stopping the violence.

to set up an Islamic state in

Algeria but are opposed not

only by the military but also

Thousands of soldiers, civi-

minist groups.

The fundamentalists want

Mr. Djeddi and Boukham-

this grave.

pens further on." The Hamas group claimed responsibility for the stabbings, vowing to strike twice

more by year's end. In a newspaper interview published before the attacks on Friday, Doron Almog, army commander of stilloccupied areas of the Gaza Strip, said his troops could pursue Palestinian assailants into self-rule areas if PLO police "show inaction" in halting attacks on Israelis.

Gen. Majaydeh said "we regret and completely reject" Gen. Almog's statement. He said Gen. Almog ignored the fact that the Palestinian police in the Strip

know their duties, are cap-

published by the leftist daily

Le Matin, declared that any

text signed by the leader, Cherif Gousmi, was "null

The Armed Islamic Group,

believed to have murdered 58

foreigners, is the most ex-

treme faction fighting to

overthrow Algeria's military-

The reported infighting may signify new divisions

among the rebels, who have

never been fully unified de-

The sources reported that

SLA and Israeli forces retali-

FIS leaders call for government dialogue

and void."

backed regime.

able of carrying them out perfectly, and need no one's certification that they are carrying them out."

Gen. Almog's warning also failed to take into account "the heavy burden left us by 27 years of Israeli occupation," Gen. Majaydeh told Israeli cabinet ministers

nian police since self-rule be-But Israeli security forces and hardline opposition leaders have charged the PLO-led police turn a blind eye to Hamas, which has vowed to foil the peace deal with

spite attempts to bring them

Islamic sources confirmed

Friday that Mr. Gousmi was

unheard-of "caliphate gov-

Formation of a self-style Islamic government would

present Mr. Zeroual with a

fait accompli, forcing him to

deal with a kind of counter-

power. Observers in Algiers

said it was likely such a body was being formed and news

There was no immediate

word of any casualties from

the Israelis out of the 1,100-

square-kilometre zone they have occupied since 1985.

the bombardment.

slipped out too soon.

attacks on Jews.

under one banner.

ernment.

Peres: No deal with Lebanon

without Syria

(Continued from page 1)

NICOSIA (AP) — Archaeologists from the University of New York has established that a Grecian temple on Yeronisos island off western Cyprus was dedi-cated to Apollo, The God of have generally lauded the performance of the Palestilight, ending years of speculation about the ancient site.

> The government's antiquities department said in a statement Monday that "oustanding finds of the 1994 season of excavation are a lion's head spout carved from limestone and an inscription identifying the divinity worshipped on Yeronisos as Apollo."

Yeronisos, Greek for holv island, lies 16 kilometres north of Paphos, the ancient city dedicated to the worship leader of a previously of Aphrodite the goddess of

love. Apollo was one of the most important Olympian gods. He was concerned especially with prophecy, medicine, music, poetry as well as bucolic arts, particularly the care of flocks and herds.

with the higher developments of civilisation, such as law, philosophy and the arts. The discoveries were made during a recently completed two-month excavating season by a team of 17 archaeologists

and students from the Uni-

versity of New York led by

Joan Breton Conneily.

associate professor of fine

But he was also associated

Hizbollah spearheads a guerrilla campaign to drive The statement said that the 30-centimetre-high lion's head spout, "with highly animated eyebrows and jowls sensitively carved in local limestone, presents a unique example of late Hellenistic architectural sculpture in

to Apollo Cyprus."
It said that the ruins of an impressive building sited dra-

matically on the steeply rising cliffs of the island suggest may have been a temple. Among the discoveries made this summer was an amphora sherd inscribed "Apollo" in late Hellenistic Greek script.

'After years of speculation as to which divinity was worshipped on the 'holy island, this inscription at last gives evidence that it was Apollo. the statement said.

It added that the temple would have presented a compelling vision for ships passing along the trade routes from east Greece to Alexan-

It said that coin discoveries provide evidence of a refemale prime ministers. markably short period of occupation of Yeronisos. Pakistan's Benazir Bhutto and Begum Khaleda Zia of from 80-30 B.C. Bangladesh, who like Ms. "All coins on the island fall Kumaratunga are themwithin the reigns of Ptolemy selves from ruling dynas-

XII and Cleopatra VII, the

the combined fleet of Antony

The statement added that

the latest discoveries provide

a "closely dated ceramic

sequence of enormous poten-

tial benefit to Hellenistic sites

throughout the Eastern

Mediterranian which lacks

well established chronologic-

and Cleopatra.

al boundaries."

last of the Prolemaic rulers. gratulate the new Sri Lank-This makes Yeronisos a highan leader. ly significant site for our '...(I) am particularly understanding of the history pleased that yet another of the Eastern Mediterranean woman has been elected to just prior to the battle of lead a South Asian nation. following the footsteps of Actium. your illustrious mother. This was the 6th century Sirimavo Bandaranaike. B.C. sea battle in which the who was the world's first Emperor Octavian defeated woman prime minister,

> Ms. Zia wrote: "As current chairperson of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, I look forward to working with you closely for further promotion of peace, stability and cooperation in our

Ms. Bhutto said in her mes-



Chandrika Bandaranaike

Ms. Bhutto is the daughter of the late Pakistani Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto while Ms. Zia entered full-time politics following the assassination of her husband, Bangladesh

president Ziaur Rahman.

Newspapers splashed pic-tures of Ms. Kumaratunga as a child with her parents alongside South Asian leaders of a previous generation such as Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and his daughter Indira Gandhi, who also became prime minister.

Ms. Gandhi was succeeded by her son Rajiv following her assassination in 1984. The younger Gan-dhi was also killed.

"In Sri Lankan politics, social background, family and kinship do matter as in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh," said Jayadeva Uyangoda, a political scientist at the University of Col-

"There is very little generational continuity if the families do not come from an elitist background," he told Reuters. To be in politics you need a lot of resources, not only economic capital but social capital - prominence and social acceptance." Leading political indi-

viduals must come from socially and economically affluent and powerful backgrounds, he said.

'Chandrika (Bandaransike) Kumaratunga stands in the direct familial and political line of her illustrious parents...," the independent Sunday Island newspaper said in a profile of the new prime minister.

Ms. Kumaratunga is a fresh face in Sri Lank,1's political scene and her winsome smile and charismatic personality made her the star attraction in the PA's campaign tallies.

tation ith'

lishments of 2 besides-

Hala Fatta A communique attributed to the Armed Islamic Group,

Chinese premier warns of social unrest

BEIJING (AFP) — Chinese Premier Li Peng has issued a stern warning about the dangers facing China's economic reforms, with rampant inflation and low state-sector incomes generating fears of social unrest.

In an unusually frank speech carried on the front pages of all major Chinese newspapers Saturday, Mr. Li admitted that negative fallout from the ongoing reform programme was already posing a serious threat to social stability.

. "The social order in some areas is not good and some contradictions among the people arising in the new situation merit earnest study and settlement," Mr. Li told a plenary session of the

Citing the battle against inflation as the government's top priority in the coming four months, the premier stressed that price control was "crucial" to maintaining national stability and development.

"Prices have risen too fast and the inflationary pressure is still too big," Mr. Li said, warning that capital construction had been "overextended" and investment in fixed assets — despite a government freeze - remained

dangerously high. Inflation is currently running at 20 per cent nationwide and as high as 25 per cent in major cities, fuelling public discontent over the price of basic foodstuffs and materials.

Since July last year, city dwellers have seen food prices rise 31.9 per cent, according to a recent report by the State Statistics Bureau.

The situation has been exacerbated by the problems dogging China's loss-making state sector which have seen workers' incomes fail to keep pace with inflation.

"A number of state-owned enterprises are in difficulty and the real income of workers has dropped in enterprises with poor economic results," Mr. Li said.

"Reform in this sector should be deepened," he However, while recognis-

ing the need for drastic changes, the government has so far been unwilling to everhaul state-run enterprises - nearly 50 per cent of which are in the red - due to the threat of unemployment and social unrest that would be an inevitable part of any streamlining programme.

According to official statistics, 103 million people are employed in the state sector which loses some 30 billion yuan (\$3.5 billion) annually. A recent report by the financial analysts and merchant bank Barings Securities put the figure at more than 50

billion yuan. The premier also highlighted the difficulties facing the country's agricultural sector, especially in the wake of a series of natural disasters that have left farmers ravaged by drought and floods and severely disrupted food supplies.
"The living of several hun-

dred million peasants will have a direct-bearing on China's national economic development and social stabil-Mr. Li stressed, adding that the supply of food to the country's vast population was a matter of paramount importance "that can at no time be neglected."

He also reminded local officials that they remained responsible for ensuring the supply of grain, vegetables and other basics and called on governments at all levels to make greater efforts to ensure the success of the reform programme.

"We must face the existing difficulties squarely and solve the problems through hard

work," Mr. Li said.

Grain and vegetable prices surged 57.8 per cent and 29.7 per cent respectively in July, compared to the same month last year.

Mr. Li's speech was the latest in a series of top-level government directives aimed at curbing inflation. On Wednesday, the

Chinese cabinet issued a circular ordering all price rises to be shelved for the rest of the year, while earlier in the week the ministry of internal trade directed all stateowned stores to stabilise the non-staple food market, foilowing unacceptable rises in the price of salt, sugar, cook-

ing oil and spices.
On the productivity front, the Chinese cabinet has mapped out an economic rescue package for ailing state-run firms in 18 cities across the country.

The package includes increased funding and tax breaks for government enterprises, which remain the cornerstone of China's socialist doctrine but are haemorrhag-ing cash at an unacceptable

Vice Minister of the State Economic and Trade Commission Chen Qingtai said the rescue deal would also target the upgrading of out-

dated machinery and technical training for the workforce. workforce.

"Enterprise reform must be connected with technical renovation," Mr. Chen said, stressing that "only this could make the state sector more competitive in the market."

The firms in the 18 chosen cities would act as models for state-sector reform on a national level, he added.

However, Mr. Chen made it clear that while the government was willing to sink more funds into the sector, individual firms will be expected to compete independently in the market and must sort themselves out or face bankruptcy.
"A well-established bank-

ruptcy system will inspire and also pressure factory managers and workers to do their best in the market," the China Daily quoted Mr. Chen as

Mr. Chen emphasised the importance of establishing an effective social security system to lessen the fallout from any reform programme.

Pension insurance and unemployment benefit must be extended to cover all types of enterprises and job centres set up to help redundant workers find fresh employment, he said.

In recent years, the steep

Requests for general

The requests include a projected 15.47 trillion yen (\$156 billion) in subsidies to regional governments and agencies, up 21.2 per cent, and an estimated 16.41 trillion yen (\$165 billion) in debtservicing costs, up 14.3 per

Japan to boost aid despite tight budget

TOKYO (R) — Japan will increase its official aid to developing countries and international organisations by about 7.7 per cent next financial year despite an austere state budget, officials said Friday.

Growth in the overall state budget for the 1995/96 financial year will be kept to 4.8 per cent, totalling about 76.57 trillion yen (\$773 billion), finance and foreign ministry officials said.

Both ministries submitted their budget requests Friday. The government will decide its final budget draft in December before seeking parliamentary approval.

Japan's aid programme, one of the largest in the world, includes grants, yendenominated loans, technical assistance and contributions to international organisa-

It is projected to increase to about 1.14 trillion yen (\$11.5 billion) next year from 1.06 trillion yen (\$10.7 billion) in the current fiscal year, officials said.

rise of the yen has meant Japan's aid in dollar terms has grown faster than the nominal figure.

account spending, the core of the state budget, are seen totalling 42.82 trillion yen (\$432 billion), up 4.8 per cent from the original 1994/95 budget. This is in line with a ceiling set by ministry of finance in late July.

Requests for the government's loans and investment programme in 1995/96 are seen as totalling 43.08 trillion yen (\$435 billion), up nine per cent, the same rate of increase seen in budget requests for this year, the offi-

U.S. economy grows at 3.8% in 2nd quarter

WASHINGTON (AFP) -The U.S. economy grew at an annual rate of 3.8 per cent in the second quarter of 1994, the Commerce Department reported Friday, easing inflationary fears and boosting share prices.

Market analysts had forecast the gross domestic product (GDP) would expand during the April-to-June quarter at a rate of about 4.2 per cent.

Friday's second-quarter figure was revised from an initial 3.7 per cent rate the Commerce Department reported a month ago. The department will publish its final report on secondquarter performance at the end of September. The growth report pushed

interest rates down on the bond market and sent share prices on Wall Street soaring. Shortly after 1:00 p.m. (1700 GMT), the Dow Jones index of leading industrial shares was up 60.87 points at 3.890.76 and interest rates on 30-year Treasury bonds fell to 7.44 per cent from 7.49 per cent earlier in the day and

Despite the half-point rise in the GDP from the rate of 3.3 per cent in the first quarter, the latest figures demonstrated that expansion had abated and that inflation was still under control, according to Delos Smith, an economist with the private business group the Conference Board.

In fact, an inflation gauge tied to the GDP showed prices rose at an annual rate of 2.9 per cent for the second quarter, in line with the department's first report, and up from 3.1 per cent during the first quarter.

Moreover, almost twothirds of the increase in growth was due to a huge build-up of unsold goods, and analysts believe that growth will slow significantly in the second half of this year as companies reduce their stocks.

Consumer spending, which accounts for two-thirds of U.S. economic activity, rose just \$12.3 billion at an annual rate to the second quarter, or 1.4 per cent, against a rise of \$40.1 billion for the first three months of the year.

The sharp drop reflects the four interest rate hikes between February and Mav prompted by the Federal Re-sereve (Fed), which was concerned that the 6.3 per cent growth rate for the third quarter of 1993 meant the economy was overheating.

The Fed made another move on Aug. 16, raising the interbank rate for the fifth time this year, boosting it to 4.75 per cent from 3.0 per cent in February.

It also raised the discount rate twice from 3.0 per cent to 4.0 per cent.

Activity also slowed in the housing sector, where construction rose by just 7.3 per cent, down from its 10 per cent rise in the first quarter.

In addition to consumer 7.53 per cent late Thursday. spending and construction, a drop in exports also weighed on the economy during the period. Signs of slower growth

were felt earlier in July, with a 4.2 per cent drop in orders for durable goods which the Commerce Department reported last week.

Economists predicted that the growth rate should settle at about three per cent for the whole year, with a rate of 3.4 per cent for the whole The Conferece Board said

last week that the U.S. economy is likely to show a growth rate of four per cent until 1995, with inflation increasing to 3.6 per cent from the current level fo 2.7 per

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY AUGUST 28, 1994 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Be careful in motion today to avoid any possibility of accident and avoid one who is always changing their plans at the last moment. Be kind and understanding of take.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Study your position in the com-munity and try to improve it. Show your benefactors that you appreciate their support on a new assignment.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Get out to whatever place which will bring you peace of mind. Make plans for the week shead so that it becomes more productive for you.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Try to keep promises to others and plan for greater things in the future. Express happiness with your family and good friends. MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to

July 21) A fine day to be of assistance to others in need. Situations arise now that could lead to self-improvement and

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is a good day to be of service to others wherever needed, even if you're not asked to do so. Avoid one who wants to waste your

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Figure out a better way to

express your creative talents. Schedule your activities for the new week and get excellent re-LIBRA: (September 23 to Octo-

ber 22) Make any changes needed at home so that everything is more ideal towards your for family members. SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You are able to communicate with others very

well now, so contact key people and get good results. Be wise in all of your actions. SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A good time to

make plans to have more abundance in the days ahead. Strive to have increased harmony at home with loved ones.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) The early hours are fine for making important deci-sions about the future. Catch up on your rest today so you are fresh for tomorrow.

JR-

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Make sure you get in touch with friends who are looking forward in seeing you. Keep any promises you have made to those in authority.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Handle civic duties which appeal to you and gain more prestige. Plan the week ahead wisely and receive added be-

Birthstone of August: Peridot — Golden Quartz

THE Daily Crossword by Henry Salzhende award 15 Plerre's 15 Pierre's griffrend 16 Sheeld border 17 Monty's notoriety? -19 Office communicati 20 Exist 21 Blessing 22 Tripol native 24 Twest about 25 Cowboy competition 26 Flour Serve 29 Potent 29 Potent 32 Hatrad 33 Witchcreft to 34 Heat measure abor 35 Sen. Robert 36 Intant 37 Humonists 37 Humonsts 38 — de-France 39 Actor Greene 40 Insertion mark 41 Droplets 43 Vanous and — 44 "— Green Tomatoes" 45 Love to excess 45 Adorn with rausel letters 48 Vehicle 49 Air traffic org. 52 Way 53 Edna's good tortune? 57 Termis 57 Termis Gleomy Larry's victim? 12 — mater 13 Sign gas 18 — poster 23 Footnote word 24 Tuxedo button 25 "Good Times." Star Eigher 26 Ferber novel 27 Pastoral poem 28 Lucy 5 andor? 29 Great care 30 Sheer 31 Robust 33 Tatter 35 Capbage dish 37 Etto 29 Cal. 40 Informal attire great 58 Knack 59 TV part 60 Troubles 61 Err

South Korea puts strike production losses at \$1.65b

SEOUL (AFP) - Labour disputes at South Korea's major industrial sites have caused production losses of \$1.65 billion so far this year and triggered an export bottleneck, the trade, industry and energy ministry said Fri-

Of a total of 49 strikes reported as of Wednesday, 39, including the longest at Hyundai Heavy Industries (HHI), which on Thursday announced that the walkout was over, have been settled. Ten remain unresolved. The cost of the strikes was

32.8 per cent less than the

\$2.47 billion lost from 83

disputes registered during the corresponding period last But the effect on the nation's exports was almost as heavy as in the same period

HARARE (R) — South African President Nelson

Mandela said Friday his

country must step up plans to

resettle or compensate

thousands of blacks dispos-

sessed under apartheid in

order to establish stable rural

Opening Zimbabwe's

annual agricultural show in

Harare, Mr. Mandela said his

million, or 1.6 per cent less than the \$538 million a year

ago, a ministry official said. The ministry has set an ambitious export target of \$91.5 billion for the whole of this year.

Hyundai Heavy Industries, during its paralysing 63-day strike, missed \$343 million in export orders, while its lost sales were put at \$630 million, excluding another \$210 million lost by its 1,500 contractors and suppliers, said a Hyundai spokesman.

The ministry said production setbacks taken by the HHI and its contractors total manufacturing losses so far this year.

accounted for 50.5 per cent-of Meanwhile, the union of Hyundai Precision and Indus-

tries Co., a sister company of

HHI, entered the second day

government of national uni-

ty's objective was to develop

South Africa's agricultural

sector in a fair manner as

envisaged in its reconstruc-

tion and development plan.

agriculture forms an impor-

tant part of our economy,"

he said. "To achieve this we

have to ensure the necessary

conditions for the commer-

"This is urgent because

in 1993 — totalling \$529.3 of a total walkout Friday —

demanding to be paid for the 54 days of strike earlier in the

Government officials. saying HHI's settlement without government intervention had set a good precedent, expressed the hope that the remaining disputes could be solved without resort to arbitration or police action.

On the overall economic scene, a state-run think tank has predicted that South Korea's economy will expand 7.7 per cent in the second half of this year, resulting in 8.3 per cent growth for the whole

The Korea Development Institute (KDI) also said the economy would expand 7.6 per cent next year, mainly because of strong domestic consumption and improving

cial sector to thrive. This

should include the improve-

ment of the working condi-

tions of millions of farm-

the programme to resettle or

compensate those who were

unjustly dispossessed, distri-

bute available state land

among deprived communities

and assist small-scale farmers

"We also have to intensify

Poland's commercial debt write off to be over 49%

WARSAW (R) - Virtually ail of Poland's commercial creditors have joined a deal slashing its \$13 billion debt and the scale of reduction is likely to exceed 49 per cent, Warsaw's chief negotiator Krzysztof Krowacki said Fri-

As much as 99 per cent of 500 international debt holders have committed themselves to the restructuring, under which part of the debt would be bought back by Warsaw and the remainder turned into bonds.

"The level of reduction can be higher than 49 per cent," Mr. Krowacki told Reuters over the telephone. He declined to give any details, saying they would be released Monday at a news confer-

to set themselves up and

keenly interested in land re-

form experiences of Zim-

babwe, which has over the

past two years increased its

efforts to resettle thousands

of landless blacks under con-

troversial legislation which

allows the state to forcibly

buy mostly white-owned

He said South Africa was

prosper," he added.

During four years of often disrupted negotiations with the creditors' representa- ment.

obtain a reduction identical to a 1991 halving of a \$35 billion debt owed to government lenders. Original lenders and secon-

tives, Poland has strived to

dary market traders, which held the Polish debt, had offered a much smaller reduction, arguing Poland's potential and economic recovery in the last two years enabled it to pay more. But in a long-awaited

breakthrough in March, the two sides reached an agreement, initially envisaging a reduction of roughly 46 per cent, depending on restruc-turing options selected by the

Since then Poland and the creditors' steering committee have been trying to persuade individual creditors to commit themselves to the agree-

farms for resettlement.

Four white farmers are

challenging the government's

decision to earmark their

Mandela says South Africa needs to step up land reforms agricultural sector, helped by state-sponsored research, this

research had not benefited

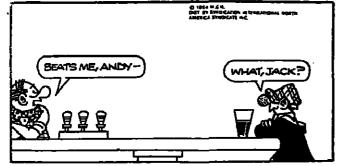
"This has to change. The land for resettlement in a advanced technology availlandmark case in the supreme able needs to be adopted to suit local conditions, meet Mr. Mandela, on his first community needs and make official visit to Zimbabwe since he swept to power in creative use of latent indigenous information and experi-April elections, said although ence," he said. South Africa had a developed

Peanuts





Andy Capp







Mutt'n'Jeff









It may be a detail but it's a Pioneer work.

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I can only recall it under hypnosis!"

Jumble not received

Jordan Times Tel: 667171

y grows at quarter

JNDAY, AUGUST &

will slow significantly second half of this to companies reduce

Consumer spending accounts for two-thing U.S. economic activity just \$12.3 billion at any rate to the second quare 1.4 per cent, against a \$40.1 billion for the

three months of the in The sharp drop reference four interest rate biktween February and prompted by the Federa sereve (Fed), which we cerned that the 6.3 pe growth rate for the dnatter of 1993 mest

economy was overhead The Fed made at move on Aug. 16. raiso interbank rate for the time this year, boosing.
4.75 per cent from 3 cent in February.

It also raised the disrate twice from 3.0 per to 4.0 per cent. Activity also slowed housing sector, where struction rose by just? cent, down from its i cent rise in the first que In addition to cons-

drop in exports also ver on the economy dunar Signs of slower gr. were felt earlier in Juk. a 4.2 per cent drop in or. for durable goods which

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Commerce Department ported last week. Economists predicted he growth rate should a it about three per cen. he whole year, with are 3.4 per cent for the r

ear. The Conferece Board: ast week that the U.S. tomy is likely to derowth rate of four na: intil 1995, with inflatereasing to 3.0 per cenhe current level to 1:

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1' AUGUST 28, 1990 Carroll Righter for

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your rest today so the high for tomorrow

UARIUS: (Januari ruary 19) Make size to ouch with friends whe ing forward in semip any promises in e to those in authorn ES: (February 20 to 8 Handle civic dutter al to you and gas ige. Plan the week y and receive added

n Quartz



Jordan Times Markets Cairo Amman Bank

Currency	New York Close Team 15:8:94	New Yeak Close Day 25/8, 94
Sterling Pound	1.5565	1.5310
Deutsche Mark	1.5425	:.3745
Swiss Franc	1.3023	1.3360
French Franc	5.2885	5.3926
Japanese Yen	99.78	100.45
European Current Unit	1,2340	1.2080
LyD Per STG		101000

erectrrency Interest Ra			Date: 26/	
	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	IZ MTH
U.S. Dollar	4.56	4.68	5-00	5.50

	1	2 MINS	0 31112	14 31183
U.S. Dollar	1.56	4.68	5-00	5.50
Sterling Pound	4.75	5.12	5.82	á.5a
Destsche Mark	4.62	4.75	4.87	5.72
Swiss Franc	3,93	4.06	4.25	4,50
French Franc	5.25	5.37	5.68	6.iZ
Japanese Yen	1.93	2.06	2.12	2.45
European Currency Unit	5.62	5.78	6.15	ó.5ã

	Date	27:8:199
Спіленсі	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	6.6986	0.7600
Sterling Pound	1.6668	1.0721
Deutsche Mark	0.4429	0.4451
Swiss Franc	0.5288	0.5314
Fresch Franc	0.1294	G.1300
Japanese Yen	0.6945	0.6980
Dutch Guilder	0.3945	D.3965
Swedish Krons	******	******
Italian Lira	0.0438	0.0440
Belgian Franc	*****	.,

other Currencies	Date: 27/8/1994		
Currency	Bld	Offer	
Bahraini Dinar	1.8350	1.8550	
Lehanese Lira	0.040585	0.041925	
Saudi Riyal	0.1856	0.1872	
Kewsiti Dinar	2.3100	€.3450	
Qatari Riyal	0.1910	0.1935	
Egyptian Peund	0-2000	. 0.2150	
Omani Riyai	0.1800	0.1820	
UAE Dirham	0.1890	0.1919	
Greek Drackers	0.2825	0.3245	
Cypriot Pound	1.3960	1.5050	

\$1.3b to finance plan

the biggest aluminium producer in the Middle East, borrowed \$1.3 billion from banks to finance 90 per cent of its expansion programme, an official said in remarks published Saturday.

Alba has spent around \$1.45 billion to double production capacity to 460,000 tonnes annually from around 225,000 tonnes. It is now producing around 445,000 tonnes a year.

Financial manager Ahmad Saleh Al Mozimy told Bahrain's Al Ayam newspaper the remaining 10 per cent of the cost of doubling the smelter's capacity had been paid by Alba's owners — the governments of Bahrain and Saudi Arabia and a German

company.

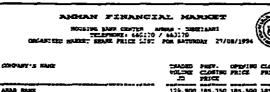
Mr. Moaimy also said

MANAMA (R) — Aluminium Bahrain BSC (Alba), around 10 per cent of the borrowed funds had already

been repaid. The Bahraini government holds a 77 per cent stake in Alba, Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund owns 20 per cent and the German group Breton Investments holds the

Meanwhile, the govern-ment of Bahrain, which has gradually been reducing its holding in the state downstream aluminium company, has approved the flotation of the compar

The Gulf News Agency, said the ministry of commerce had agreed to the flotation of the Bahrain Alpminium Extrusion Company (BALEXCO) and double its authorised capital to 20 million dinars (\$53 million) from 10 million dinars (\$26.5 mil-



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PROPERTY DEALCONER PER	36,25	2.960	2.960	2.96
THE MODELLY BARS	7.53	5.200	5,200	5.17
SOUGH STRALT SURF	24,30	CH4	1.040	1.01
SOUTH COLF BUIL	17.22	2.780	1.790	1.75
JOHNA ISLANIC BUS	24,41	3.840	3,850	3,63
BORNESS DAME	31,73	3.900	3.660	3.4
BELL BURNE SWATSET LANGE MEETING	FOR HOUSE 1.13	3-750	3.680	3.64
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JOHNAN MOCIONOGL INDUSTRIES	31.23	1,850	1.940	1.90
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JOHNAN CHICAGOS & PARCELS	ysco 5,53	6 0.940	0.939	0.93
METODAL CHOICE & MINE HORSON	CTURUMO 17,85	6.350	6.700	6.20
ARAB CEPTES FOR PROJECT & CO.	KICALS 10,95	2,750	2,900	2.93
ENTERED INVESTMENT	2,66	3 2,150	2.130	4-13
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Bahrain's Alba borrowed | Arab Gulf states plan export, investment drive in Europe

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab Gulf states will bid to penetrate European markets and attract industrial technology when they hold their first major overseas exhibition in London next month, officials said Saturday.

More than 300 companies from the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) will participate in the week-long fair, which officials expect to attract more than 100,000 visitors from Britain and other European Union

(EU) members. The Riyadh-based GCC secretariat and the joint British-Arab Chamber of Commerce and Industry are sponsoring the Sept. 12-18 show, which will also include seminars to explain investment opportunities in the oilrich region.

"It is the biggest exhibition to be staged jointly by GCC countries abroad. It constitutes a great opportunity to promote our products and discuss joint industrial ven-tures," a GCC official told AFP by telephone from Riyadh.

"We expect the event to succeed as we have received great interest from thousands of businessmen," he said.

Gulf officials said the exhibition would include clothes and textile, foodstuffs, light equipment, furniture, home appliances and other light products. Some British firms would also dis-play industrial products.

GCC states decided on holding the fair last year as they pursued attempts to find new outlets for their non-oil exports and attract technology needed to build an industrial base to diversify their

oil-reliant economy.

The six members — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) - will discuss such issues

when they hold a conference with Japanese businessmen in Tokyo later this year.

Gulf states, which control more than 40 per cent of the world's oil, have launched an industrialisation campaign to reduce dependence on oil exports as other sectors like tourism and agriculture are firmited.

Official figures showed they have pumped more than \$50 billion to set up nearly 4,000 factories producing over 10,000 different products.

Such investments have boosted the industrial sector's value to around \$14.7 billion from \$11.4 billion in Its share in the gross

domestic product has also sharply risen to 10.8 per cent from 7.1 per cent of the oil exports of around \$70 billion a vear.

Medium and heavy industries are essential for the sucdrive but we lack technology for such sectors," a UAE official said. "That's why we hadly need help from indust-

rial countries." Officials said they would ask EU businessmen at their talks in London to take advantage of economic re-forms in the Gulf and incentives for the private sectors, triggered by weak oil prices. They said they would also explain the benefits of the Gulf region concerning its modern infrastructure, proximity to Iran, India and other key consumer markets and its abundant energy and

cheap labour.
The UAE federation of chambers of commerce and industry has said GCC participants in the London fair would explain investment rules and economic developments in their countries as well as incentives for joint

Computer makers expect copyright law to boost business in UAE

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AFP) - Major computer producers have said they were expecting a surge in business in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) after the introduction of copyright protection laws.

The laws, enacted in 1993 under U.S. pressure, have started to hit piracy which cost software agents around \$54.4 million last year, according to a statement by the Dubai World Trade Cen-

The centre is sponsoring the biggest computer fair in the Middle East to be held here in October.

It said most of the highquality pirated software com-

ing into the UAE was being imported from China. Taiwan, Thailand and the United States. Piracy investigating bodies

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carried out at dealer level in the UAE, with software being copied from originals,

"There is a major oppor-tunity for the creation of a UAE software development industry which will only come with effective copyright en-forcement," it quoted Ashley Craven, regional marketing manager at the U.S. Lotus

computer giant, as saying.
"The information technology industry in the UAE will be enhanced considerably with both new jobs and new products being created localand internationally," he

The UAE is among a few Arab countries that have introduced laws to protect copyrights, industrial and intellectual property, and draft-

ing similar legislation. The moves followed talks

with the United States which passed on complaints from companies that infringements were costing them more than \$500 million in losses in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation

Council (GCC).

The GCC is one of the fastest growing computer markets given the rapid exnansion in its industry, banking and other sectors. According to dealers, the market is growing by 10 per

cent annually and its turnover of computer and software exceeds \$1 billion a year. "We hope the enforcement of the copyright law will cre-

ate a dramatic increase in legitimate software sales," said Brian McEachron, vice president of the U.S. Business Software Alliance com-

"The law is new to the region and we have to help educate the vendors."

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Gulf Air cuts fares on lucrative Doha-India route

DOHA (R) - Gulf Air has slashed fares on flights between India and the Arab Gulf state of Qutar, where Indians form the largest expatriate community.

Travel industry sources said the decision to lower fares between Oatar's capital Doha and four Indian cities was expected to spark a price war among regional airlines, one of which is owned by Qatar, a Gulf Air sharehol-

Gulf Air lowered return fares between Doha and Madras, Bombay, Trivandrum and New Delhi on tickets valid for six months as of Aug. 25. It lowered its fare to 1,950 riyals (\$535) from the (\$714) on the Doha-Bombay route as well as on return flights to New Delhi. Qatar has launched its own

airline Qatar Airways and plans to increase flights to India after it expands its fleet. Its return fare to Bombay is currenty 1,800 (\$494). Gulf Air is also owned by Oman, which recently launched its own airline, Bahrain

and Abu Dhabi. Gulf Air's Doha-Madras return fares were dropped to 2,570 rivals (\$706) from 3,42: (\$939) and Doha-Trivandrum to 2,630 riyals (\$722) from

3,510 rivals (\$964). Air India, India's national carrier, charges 1,900 riyals (\$521) return fare between

Doha, Bombay and New De-Kuwait Airways, Saudia,

Cathay Pacific and Emirates airlines also operate flights between Doha and Indian

Vietnam to auction gemstones in U.S.

HANOI (AFP) — Vietnam has asked auction house Sothebys to organise the country's first public sale of gemstones in the United States, a report has said.

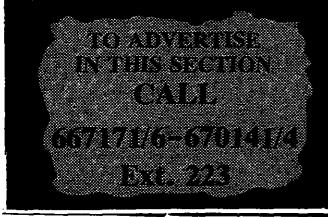
Executives from Sothebys have visited Vietnam to begin preparations for the sale of rubies and other gems which is expected to take place in New York next spring, a U.S. consultant advising the government on gem sales told the Vietnam investment Re-

No estimate was given for the value of stones to be sold at the auction, which will take place "as soon as government procedures have been completed," said Jabir president of Gemrusa, which is advising the State Bank of Vietnam on gemsales,

An auction of stones last year was a massive disappointment for the government after only \$50,000 of gems out of an estimated \$1.8 million on offer sold because prices were too high and export regulations too strict, the official newspaper said.

High export taxes were hindering development of the gem business and encouraging smuggling of rubies into Thailand, which is estimated to cost the country some \$350 million a year, Mr. Jabir said. About 90 per cent of rubies mined in Vietnam are believed to be smuggled to Thailand.







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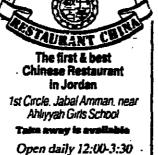
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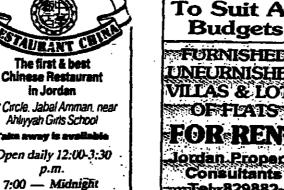






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Champions Manchester United check Tottenham's flying start

LONDON (R) — Tottenham's flying start to the English premier league season, inspired by German World Cup striker Juergen Klinsmann, was checked when they lost 1-0 to champions Manchester United Saturday.

The London club, winners over Sheffield Wednesday and Everton in their first two games, conceded a headed goal to defender Steve Bruce four minutes after halftime in their home clash.

Tottenham's misery was compounded when striker Teddy Sheringham had a penalty saved — his second spot kick miss in four days late in the second half.

Klinsmann, scorer of three goals in his opening two matches for his new club. brilliantly hooked the ball home in the 43rd minute but had the effort disallowed for

Goal-hungry Newcastle thrashed Southampton 5-1 they have now scored 12 times in three games — with defender Steve Watson and marksman Andy Cole both getting two strikes.

Chris Sutton, Blackburn's close-season signing from Norwich, was another forward in form, firing a hit-trick in his team's 4-0 victory over Coventry.

Manchester United, seeking their third consecutive premier league title, often struggled for inspiration and looked unsure against TotThe champions, having his transfer fee. survived until halftime, took

Sutton produc the lead after 49 minutes in farcical fashion.

Ryan Giggs curled a rightwing corner towards the far post and goalkeeper Ian Walker slipped over at the critical moment, leaving Bruce with a straightforward, unopposed header to put his side ahead.

Tottenham squandered the chance to equalise from the spot after Bruce tripped Romanian forward Ilie Dumitrescu in the 75th mi-

Sheringham, who blasted a penalty kick against Everton over the bar Wednesday, aimed for the right hand cor-ner but Danish goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel read it perfectly and saved.

Newcastle's thumping home success over Southampton secured a 100 per cent winning record, the only one in the premier league, after three matches and put

them top of the table.

A double strike by Watson in the 30 th and 37th minutes gave Newcastle the initiative and Cole consolidated with goals after 40 and 70 minutes. Forward Nicky Banger pul-

led one back in the 52nd

minute but Robert Lee sealed Newcastle's win with an 85th minute strike. Blackburn, who paid Norwich five millin pounds sterling (\$7.77 million) for Sutton in a bid to enhance their title

ambitions, have seen the

striker swiftly start to repay

Sutton produced a fine allround display as Coventry were emphatically beaten 4-0 for the second time in four

After missing two early chances, Sutton cleared a Phil Babb header off the Blackburn goalline before the interval and then scored in the 67th, 74th and 89th minutes. Jason Wilcox added to the rout with a 77th minute

Chelsea staged a compelling fightback to snatch a 3-2 victory with a late winner at

Leeds raced 2-0 ahead within 19 minutes through South African striker Phil Masinga and Noel Whelan.

But the Londoners reduced the deficit with a Dennis Wise penalty before John Spencer pulled them level and then grabbed the deciding goal with just two minutes left.

Two strikes by German Uwe Rosler thrust Manchester City to a 4-0 home win over Everton, while Nottingham Forest continued an encouraging start on their re-

turn to the premier league.
A first-half goal from striker Stan Collymore gave Forest a 1-0 home success against Leicester, who are struggling after being promoted along with Forest at the end of last season. They were hammered by Newcastle and Blackburn during the previous six days.

Borussia Dortmund lead in

BONN (Agencies) — Unbeaten Borussia Dortmund took the solo lead of the German league, beating Kaiserslautern 2-1 as rivals Stuttgart faitered at home to Cologne Saturday, drawing 1-1 and sliding into fourth

Germany

Karlsruhe, following a 4-1 destruction of Duisburg, were in second place with Werder Bremen breathing down their necks in third place on goal difference after demolishing Bochum 3-0. Midfielder Basier scored all

Borussia played Friday and led 1-0 at half time with a goal from Chapuisat in the 40th minute. Zorc added the second from a 74th minute penalty and Kunst got the consolation goal for Kaisers-lautern with eight minutes to

For Karlsruhe Tarant scored two and Knup and Wueck added the other in the 4-1 win over Duisburg, for whom Koezle pulled one

Hamburg won for the first time this season and were the only away winner of the day, beating Schalke 04 by the only goal of the game.

Al Hussein stun Al Faisali, win Federation Shield title

By Aleen Bannayan Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Hussein Friday stunned the Kingdom's soccer champions Al Faisali when they scored an unexpected 2-1 victory to win the Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF) Shield trophy for the first time.

Munib Gharaibeh opened scoring for Al Hus-sein in the 40th minute, however Ja'afar Hammad soon equalised in the 54th minute of the match attended by only 8,000 fans.

Al Hussein's winning goal was scored by striker Ahmad Al Shaqran in the 84th minute dashing Al Faisali's hopes of winning the title for a record fourth

Al Faisali had eliminated Al Wihdat and Al Ramtha. who had both also won the title three times each.

The competition — in which only first division teams take part - is one of four championships orga-nised annually since 1981. Other competitions are the first division, the Cup Winner's Cup and the Jordan Cup.
Al Hussein had not won a

major title for years. Their best achievement was finishing second in the first division in 1990 and 1992, and in the shield in 1987 and 1990.

Al Faisali, who have been the Kingdom's soccer champions for the past two consecutive years, neverthless proved that they are



Rateb Al Dhamen received the Jordan Soccer

sistent among the country's top teams after recently adding the 1994 Cup Winner's Cup to their long list

In 1993 they clinched the first division, the Jordan Cup and Cup Winner's Cup, and in 1992 they won the Jordan Cup, the Shield and the first division.

Al Faisali will soon begin the defence of their first division title when the competition kicks off Aug. 31.

Federation Shield Record

PARIS (AFP) — The Olympic Games will generate \$2.5 billion in revenue for the 1993-1996 period, the Inter-(IOC) reports.

Seven per cent of that sum — \$175 million — will be retained by the IOC which for the next eight days oversees the movement's 12th Olympic Congress here.

The revenues derived from television, sponsorship and general fund-raising help to provide the movement with its financial independence." IOC President Juan-Antonio Samaranch says.

"However, in developing, al federations. these programmes we must always remember that it is hat must control destiny, not commercial in-

Richard Pound, the Canadian IOC executive board member who is chairman of the new sources of financing and TV rights negotiating commissions, also refutes suggestions that the move-

ment leaves itself open to manipulation by its business

"Take away sponsorship national Olympic Committee and commercialism from sport today and what is left? A large, sophisticated, finelytuned engine developed over a period of 100 years - with no fuel," Pound says in the latest issue of the IOC's review of marketing.

Yet the IOC, which now has a permanent staff of 130,. at Lausanne, does not put on the games - that is done by the host city — and does not run competitions which are organised by the internation-

So the \$175 million the "non-profit making" IOC only be channeled into building a peaceful and better world by educating youth through sport" as the IOC

charter puts it. Olympic chiefs were wor-ried the bottom had dropped out of the American television market as the NBC network lost \$100 million on its \$401 million investment in the 1992 Barcelona Games.

But NBC will pay \$456 million for the 1996 Atlanta Games while the European Broadcasting Union will pay an unprecedented \$250 mil-

Atlanta also hopes to sell 11 million tickets at an average \$40 to gross \$440 million. Nagano sold U.S. rights for the 1998 Winter Games for \$375 million to CBS, against \$295 million for the Lillehammer Games in

No wonder nine cities, eager to stage the Winter Games in 2002, have already

This congress, which will cost upwards of 80 million francs (\$5 million) shared be-tween Paris city hall, the French state and the IOC, assembles 2,000 people to talk about the future of the

Broadly-speaking, the last

congress, in Baden Baden in 1981, concluded there was no room for the highly-paid stars of professional sport in the

Olympics.
The final statement said: "There was no place in the Olympic Games for "professional" or "open" competi-

"The principles of Rule 26 must be retained and the by-laws made suitable for each Olympic sport, but compliance with this rule should not create inequalities between competitors."

Rule 26, which enforced the amateur status of competitors, is a thing of the past. Samaranch always says now he wants the best sportsmen

The best basketballers in 1992 formed what they called a Dream Team and the way Michael Jordan and company slaughtered the rest of the competition demonstrated just how unequal sport can be.



TEEING OFF: British embassy official Dick Lockyer takes a swing at the Annual Nations Cup competition last Friday (Photo by Rana Husseini)

IAAF denies 20 more positive dope tests

PARIS (R) — An International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) spokesman Saturday denied a British newspaper report that it had been informed of up to 20 new positive dope tests.

IAAF press spokesman Christopher Winner told Reuters in a telephone interview from Rome.

those arbitrary figures that somebody pulled out of the sky because it sounds good."

iper said Saturday the IAAF had been informed of up to 20 new positive tests among athletes from out-ofcompetition samples taken worldwide in recent months. Winner said he was not aware of any new positive test that had not been

announced publicly. He said he believed the newspaper report could have been based on a misunderstanding. "In the last three months we have certainly had over 10 positives," he said, adding that these cases were

all public knowledge. Winner said an unusually large number of tests had been carried out in recent weeks because of the European championships, Goodwill Games and other summer events as well as out-of competition tests, but that laboratory results were still awaited in many cases.

gestions by British athletics officials that there had been skulduggery in the doping case of women's 800 metres runner Diane Modahl, who was sent home from the Commonwealth Games in Canada this week.

The British officials said they had been notified that Modahl had shown positive in an initial, or a, sample only on Wednesday, nine weeks after the test was taken in

Russian officials had apparently known about the

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result a month earlier. But Winner said the IAAF was not to biame for the long delay in notifying the British federation of the result as it had only been informed itself

laboratory which carried out

did not always understand the vital importance of get-

"But we're not the world's policeman," he said. "We have no army of Sylvester Stallones or Schwarzeneggers to go out and twist their

McEnroe wants major changes in tennis



John McEnroe

NEW YORK (R) — If John McEnroe were in charge, there would be major changes in the game of tennis
— like moving Wimbledon or the U.S. Open indoors.

"I have always endorsed the idea of holding a major tournament indoors," said McEnroe, who would rather that sun, wind and other weather elements not be a factor with a Grand Slam title on the line. "All sports should give

athletes a chance to perform at their best and I don't think that's done in tennis," he

McEnroe, the best tennis player in the world for much of the 1980s, discussed the current state of the game during a telephone news conferene ahead of the U.S. Open, which starts Monday at the National Tennis Centre in Flushing Meadow.

The former tennis bad boy does not think it possible any longer to see the highest quality tennis on French Open clay or the grass of Wimbledon, where he won three of his seven Grand Slam crowns.

"On clay the points are so slow...at Wimbledon the serve is so big you hardly have chance to get the ball

McEnroe, one of the most exciting athletes ever to play the game both for his shotmaking artistry and explosive temper, thinks tennis needs at shot in the arm.

"The tennis establishment has to realise something needs to be done to make it more exciting, just like soccer. Both are great sports but they need some changes," he

McEnroe said something must be done about the serve, rackets, and balls, the length and pace of matches, the tour calender, the rankings system and the U.S. Open format for semifinals and finals. And he was just

getting warmed up.

He echoed recent criticisms by another former number one, Jimmy Connors, who feels the emphasis on the power serve had taken much of the artistry out of the men's game. "They need to do some-

thing about the serve in

men's tennis. The game should be more than just the serve," said the 35-year-old McEnroe, whose imaginative shots and angled volleys kept his game interesting at all

He suggested eliminating let cords and making it illegal to jump off the ground while serving. "Big servers would still serve big, but it wouldn't be as much of a factor." McEnroe, who will work as

a television analyst during the open, won the tournament for the last time 10 years ago. "It doesn't seem like a long time ago," he said of his fourth U.S. Open title. "But it sounds like a long time ago."
Since his retirement, the

father of three has had some time to ruminate over what ails tennis these days and one of McEnroe's main gripes is that there is just too much of "I don't think we should be

playing a tournament every week of the year. You have to give players and fans a break from tennis."

He also said matches must keep moving to hold fan in-

"You have to eliminate excuses to stop play," he said, suggesting changoevers after four games instead of after every other game.
"They shouldn't allow

players to stall just because

people are moving around in the stands," he added about a constant source of player frustration at the U.S. pen in McEnroe was especially critical of the rankings system that only counts a player's best 14 results or divides his

results by 14 if an athlete plays fewer than 14 tourna-"Under this system a play-er could conceivably win all four majors and not be ranked number one at the end of

"The best of 14 should be abolished immediately. Every time you walk out on court it should count."

McEnroe did seem to be at peace with his decision to retire from competitive ten-

"I don't miss the rigours of travelling and I couldn't take the losing," he said. "That's why I'm just playing exhibitions, although I can't say I'm thrilled even when I lose in exhibitions."

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The LAAF also denied sug-

"I can categorically deny that there are 20 positives,"

"Twenty sounds like one of

Portugal. Britain's Guardian news-

a week ago. He said the Portuguese

the test had failed to pass the results on to the IAAF, as it should have, and told the Portuguese federation instead. Because of holidays, there had been a hold-up in passing the result to the IAAF, he added. Winner said laboratories

ting results quickly to the IAAF.

Albania to give UEFA antidefection guarantees

TIRANA (R) — The Albanian Football Association said Friday it was surprised by a UEFA ultimatum to guarantee players would not defect but would meet the UEFA deadline.

UEFA, European soccer's governing body, issued its ultimatum to the association Thursday, requiring it to pro-vide guarantees by Friday night that it could fulfill all conditions required to play in the European championship.

Gjergi Thaka, an Albanian Football Association official. told Reuters he would answer UEFA immediately, though he expressed surprise at the ultimatum, "We learnt only today of

the ultimatum and worked hard to collect signatures from the players in Albania. But now I can say for sure we have no problem meeting UEFA's deadline," Thaka

UEFA warned that Alba-

nia and newcomers Georgia could be kicked out of the European championship next week because they had failed to meet UEFA conditions on security and preventing player defections.

If Albania and Georgia failed to meet the deadline then their opening matches of the qualifying competition on Sept. 7 - against Wales and Moldova respectively in group seven — would be cancelled and they could be expelled, UEFA said.

On Friday UEFA said it had received the necessary

written assurances from Georgia that the former Soviet republic had carried out required improvements to stadia and organisation. UEFA said in Geneva it was satisfied with security in

Georgia and had given the country permission to play their opening European Championship qualifying match next month.

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Bugno tests caffeine positive

ROME (R) - Italian Gianni Bugno, winner of two world cycling championship road races, has failed a dope test for caffeine, state television said Friday.

A spokesman for the Italian Cycling Federation (FCI), who said he could not confirm the reports, acknowledged an Italian rider had tested positive but would not disclose his name or the sub-stance until he had been officially informed.

Television reports said Bungo, 30, had tested positive for the banned substance after Italy's Agostoni Cop

Television later quoted Bugno as denying he had taken anything that could fail a dope test for caffeine.

"I drank a cup of coffee that morning — as I always do. This all seems very strange to me," Bugno said.
"In any case, I have yet to receive any official word on

the matter," he added. FCI spokesman Livio Iacovella said the rider would have five days to ask for another test to validate the finding. His name would be revealed only after the results of the second test had come

through. Iacovella said a simple cup of coffee did not suffice to test positive for caffeine.

"You would have to drink about 10 cups of coffee to do that," Iacovella told Reuters by telephone from the Sicilian city of Agrigento, where the world cycling road race is to be held on Sunday.

Bugno, who won that race in 1991 and 1992, droppedout of this year's version Thursday. He said he had injured his ankle Monday when he crashed in training after swerving to avoid a boy who had wandered into his

His left ankle badly swollen. Bugno did not accompany the Italian team to Sicily Wednesday, forcing coach Alfredo Martino to call up experienced reserve Davide Cassani for the race in

A third win in that race was Bugno's dream.

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Pasa Pass
Opening lead: Jack of ♥
Whether on lead or water, Bill
Root is acclaimed as the world's premier teacher. During the course of

thousands of pupils have attended his courses. His bridge cruises draw more players than anybody alses. This hand was played on a recent cruise aboard the Royal Viking Sun. North's jump to six hearts over the Blackwood inquiry showed one see and a void in a suit higher rank-

ing than trumps; in this case it could only be spades. South settled for a small slam when we know some who would have contracted for all the

Declarer won the trump lead, uffed a spade and returned to hand with the see of clubs to ruff another Declarer won the trump lead, ruffed a spade and returned to hand with the ace of clubs to ruff another spade. One more spade was discarded on the second high diamond and declarer ruffed a diamond and tried to draw trumps. When hearts didn't break, declarer left a high trump outstanding and started on chuba. Unfortunately, West was able to ruff the third club and cash the ace of spades for down one.

spades for down one.

Root had spotted the deal and it is now one of his lesson hands. All declarer needed to do to make six spades was to allow West to win the first trick! The defenders could do no better then confine trumps. Declarer wins, ruffs a spede in dummy and then returns to hand with the ace of clubs to draw trumps and claim the slam. In all, declarer makes four trump tricks, one spade ruff, two diamonds and five clubs.... ruff, two diamonds are 12 tricks on the nose.

Hockey might join baseball in limbo

their current negotiations.

National Football League

(NFL) teams are in the first

months of a salary cap, which

has forced many veteran

players to take severe pay

cuts or retire because no

team can afford to pay what they had been making. Ros-

ters are filled with younger

players and in many cases a few high-paid stars and many lower-paid teammates, even

Hopes dim for resumption of

asebali season

Meanwhile, baseball play-

ers and owners were doubtful

whether the 1994 baseball

season will resume after two

neetings this week showed

"I don't think we're going

little room for compromise in

to play baseball again this year." Philadelphia pitcher

year," Philadelphia pitcher Curt Schilling said. The first face-to-face talks

between owners and players

allowed both sides to air their

position but accomplished lit-

tle. New talks are not sche-

"Clearly there was nothing else to say," players' union head Don Fehr said.

Owners want salary limita-

tions to keep from spending themselves into bankruptcy

by bidding against each other-for top talent. They claim

many teams are in jeopardy

of failing, but have provided

no documentation of the

their labour dispute.

among starters.

NEW YORK (AFP) away on us and it's a joke." National Hockey League (NHL) owners have given approval for commissioner The baseball strike and possible hockey lockout could be a harbinger of things Gary Bettman to shut down to come in the National Baspre-season training camps, scheduled to open in 10 days, ketball Association (NBA), where salary limits have been unless major progress is made in labour talks. in place under a contract that expired in June. NBA players want an end to the cap in

With North American baseball players already on strike, a lockout would mean two major U.S. sports leagues would be out of work over salary limit proposals by owners. The NHL season is scheduled to begin October

"The rumour is there will be a lockout," Washington goaltender Don Beaupre said. "We haven't agreed to what they want, a salary

cap."
NHL players have been without a bargaining agree-ment since Sept. 15, 1993. Owners and players have met just once in the past five months and no future talks

"The guys are supposed to have saved their money for the possibility this would happen," Edmonton goaltender Bill Ranford said.

NHL officials would not -comment on reports Bettman has already decided to lock out players. Bettman has said he wants to avoid a "baseball scenario," with players out at the end of the season as they were for 12 days in 1992.

Bettman sparked hard feelings among players with a letter earlier this month that threatened the imposition of economic cutbacks, including meal money for players when

they are on the road.
"We plan on starting the season as scheduled, but we feel they want us to strike," Beaupre said. "They're trying to force these takeing salary,' Boston owner John Harrington said. 'The owners and players have to

reconsider their positions. Players have little trust inthe owners, who colluded to keep salaries down in the late 1980s and eventually were ordered in court to pay damages. They said players should not be punished for ownership mismanagement and claim teams are in excel-

lent financial health. "Who knows if they have got a Plan B. If they do, they had better get to it because Plan A is not working,' Atlanta pitcher Tom Glavine

So far the strike, now 15 days old, has wiped out 161 games and cost players more than \$81 million in salaries. Owners have lost \$119 miltion in revenues.

Based on prior sales this season, vendors at stadiums have lost more than seven million beer sales and 3.6 million sales of hot dogs.

Owners are considering plans to play the World Series in November at a neutral site, a warm-weather stadium or enclosed facility if talks prevent resumption of the season or scuttle the scheduled October playoffs.

Schilling said going directly from the strike to the playoffs or playing a neutral-site World Series "would jeopardise the integrity of the game and what the playoffs stand

Every missed day brings owners closer to wiping out playoffs.

"Many business decisions have to be made in early September," Harrington said. "We're closing in on the point of no return. But the bard deadline is mid-September."

Barrichello gains pole of Belgian GP

Sunday's Belgian Grand Prix (AFP photo)

pacifics of Frenchmen Ber-

trand Gachot and Paul Bel-

Belgian Philippe Adams, making his debut with Lotus,

qualified for his first Grand

Prix in 26th and last place on

Barrichello, who was seen

rubbing his hands with glee before being engulfed in a mass of back-slapping team-mates at the end of the ses-

sion, was asked about Senna.

"I know he got his first pole position and his first win

in the wet too," he replied. "I don't know where he is now,

but he may be very happy. The wet conditions today, the

way I took the pole, the good work of the Jordan team to

make all this happen and the

mondo failed to qualify.

the grid.

Belgium (R) - Heavy overnight rain and a track covered in puddles and standing water ensured that Rubens Barrichello claimed his and the Jordan team's first pole position Saturday.

The 22-year-old Brazilian. who sat out the wet final qualifying session, was able to rely on his time from Friday to ensure he heads the grid for Sunday's Belgian Grand Prix.

He will have championship-leading German Michael Schumacher alongside him at the start of the 44-lap race, the Benetton man having been unable to improve on his overnight time from Friday.

"This is my best ever chance to finish on the podium," said Barrichello.
"It is a great day for the team and to have me at the front and Eddie (Irvine) fourth is fantastic.

Barrichello dedicated his pole position achievement to fellow-Brazilian and inspiration, the late Ayrton Senna, "and all the other people who always believed in me and my

ability."
Briton Damon Hill, who went out but found the conditions worked against improved times, finished third on the grid beside livine in fourth place. The only driver to improve

his time from Friday was Brazilian Christian Fittipaldi who moved his footwork up to 24th on the grid with a lap in two minutes and 30.931

fact it was a good lap as well. "All of this makes me dedicate this to him (Senna) and to all the people who be-

could be in this place now." Barrichello and his teammate Irvine revelled in the luxury of being able to sit in their garage and watch the session on television, safe in the knowledge that few if any of their rivals would be able to improve their times in the

Brazilian Rubens Barrichello drives his Sasoi- Jordan during the first official practices for

perilous conditions. Belmondo also did not go

Schumacher was not dis-appointed. "I would of course be happier to be on pole, but I congratulate Rubens and the Jordan team. I made a little mistake and it cost me my chance of pole position," he said.

"On this circuit, it is good to be on the front row and I am looking forward to the Tace.

Barrichello said he was aware that he was surrounded on the grid by two

"I know what that means: and if they are trying to get past me I will let them go. I am only aiming for a podium' finish and this is my best

He would not be drawn on talk about his future --- or suggestions that he is poised. to join the McLaren team next year - but admitted he was in negotiations with the Jordan team.

Hill said it was good to see Barrichello and Jordan at the: front of a fresh-looking grid, but warned that the wet conditions were perilous for the drivers, particularly at Eau Rouge, where a new chicane has been installed.

H e said he was concerned at the wall on the right side of the track on entry. "But it is the same for everyone and we. shall have to get on with it

Baiul to train in U.S.

KIEV (R) — Olympic figure skating champion Oksana Bajul will leave Ukraine next month to train permanently at a new rink in Hartford,

The offer was made after Bainl won the Olympic title in Norway in February.

cticut, her coach has

Coach Galina Zmievskaya aid Baiul "was actively and very seriously preparing for the European and world championships. Oksana is ready for battle and full of

"After Sept. 10 we plan to leave for Hartford to con-tinue the training," she told Reuters by telephone from Dnepropetrovsk, Baiul's hometown in eastern

Zmievskaya dismissed sug-gestions Baiul was still suffer-

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ing from a back injury sus-tained on the eve of her gold medal performance. When she collided with another ska-

ter in practice.

der coach dave coi

Kravchuk pledged help to keep the 16-year-old in Ukraine. But proposals by Ukrainian businessmen to provide equipment and even a rink with acceptable ice have apparently fallen Baiul and Zmievskaya are living in a modest hotel in

"Her health is normal, there are no problems result-ing from her injury," Zmievskava said.

Since winning Ukraine's first Olympic gold at the Lillehammer Games, Baiul and poor training conditions in the destitute former Soviet Former President Leonid

Dnepropetrovsk in anticipation of their departure.

"Oksana is sitting next to me right now on the floor, studying English," Zmievs-A sponsor in Hartford

offered Baiul the new training opportunity after her Olympic victory over U.S. favourite Nancy Kerrigan. The president of the Ukrainian Figure Skating Federa-

tion, Ludmila Mikhailovskaya, said Baiul would enter international competitions in November or December along with Viktor Petrenko. who won Olympic gold in 1992 and who was fourth in

Mikhailovskaya said both skaters had taken part in the Goodwill Games (in July and August) in St. Petersburg "and they are worn out."

lieved Rubens Barrichello Desperately seeking bankable star, Formula One eyes former champ Mansell

SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS, Belgium (AP) — One of the hottest drivers in Formula One nowadays is nowhere in sight. Still, Nigel Mansell is already making some nervous and others giddy with excite-

With the tragic death of Ayrton Senna, the retirement of Alain Prost and the selfimposed exile of Mansell to the United States, Germany's Michael Schumacher is running away with the cham-Meanwhile, Formula One

make it a tight race next year and a proven, bankable star to recapture interest. So talk at the Belgian

Grand Prix now centres on the return of the irrepressible Briton, whose daredevil driving earned him the 1992 world title and the adoration of fans around the world.

"We can only be over joyed at the thought of Man-sell coming back," said Patrick Faure, head of Renault

Sports Engines, which supplies the powerplant for Mansell's old team Williams-Renault.

Across the Atlantic Ocean, Mansell is completing a lessthan-perfect Indycar season. In his first year he won the PPG Cup, but this year he is vinless and has failed to finish five of the 12 races. "We know that Nigel is no

longer happy in the United States." Faure said. He is still under contract with the Newman-Haas, but the In-dycar circuit is alrady rife placements for Mansell. And by making a cameo appearance at the French

Grand Prix in June, he signalled he still loves Formula One enough to return. But at what price? Faure said Williams is still having talks with Mansell to lure him back but that no-

thing is decided yet. Mansell

competition also means Mansell would claim the leadership position in the Williams stable, now belonging to fellow-Briton Damon Hill.

could even return for some of

the late races in this year's

While few doubt it would

gie the sport a much needed

competitive shot in the arm.

"It is a fairly close to completion situation," admitted Hill, not exactly jumping for

Even though he already won two grands prix and clinhardly draws attention the way Mansell did. During his one-race return

this year, Mansell did some testing in Britain and immediately came close to the lap record at Brands Hatch, 20 months after his last grand prix. During the French Grand Prix, he retired with mechanical problems.

Schumacher has almost monopolised the world's gaze. this year, winning seven of 10 races and four of the lastseven pole positions. He now leads the standings with 76' points, with Hill trailing by 31. Five races remain after the Belgian-Grand Prix.

But even Schumacher's cheerful personality and ubiquitous smile is overshadowed now by several controversies, that could still affect his world championship chances.

An appeal on a two-race ision for disrec black flag at the British Grand Prix will be heard in Paris Tuesday, and his Benetton team could still be penalised for an alleged Infraction of refueling procedures that FIA blames for a pit fire that turned the car of Schumacher's teammate Jos Verstappen in a ball of flame at the German Grand Prix.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

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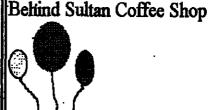
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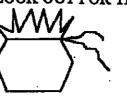


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'Arab Afghans' on trial Argentine at State Security Court

Editor's Note: Since the legal case involving the Jordan Times' coverage of the Mutah trial is still being heard in court, this newspaper is unable to provide its own coverage of this news item. Instead the Associated Press' report on yesterday's proceeding is carried with only minor editing:

explosives, including dyna-

It said those were to be

used in attacks against state

and private institutions, li-

quor stores, video rental

shops and night clubs - re-

garded by Muslim fanatics as

symbols of Western values.

to the Associated Press by

legal sources on condition of

anonymity, said the group plotted to kidnap intelligence officers and assassinate

Jordanian and Palestinian

officials involved in peace

group targeted Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, who

once headed Jordan's delega-

tion to the Middle East peace

The indictment said the group, like other Muslim

anatic organisations in the

Arab World, vehemently

opposed a negotiated settle-

ment with Israel and attemp-

ted to torpedo Arab-Israeli

peacemaking.

It said the group had also planned to "blow up Israeli

and American interests in the region." It did not elaborate.

group was responsible for a handful of bombing attacks

since early 1993 on supermar-

kets selling alcohol and

movie theatres showing por-

funds from Osama Ben

Laden, a renegade Muslim

leader from Saudi Arabia

who is believed to be hiding

Under Jordanian law, such

are punishable by

It said the group received

nographic movies.

The indictment said the

Among them, it said, the

negotiations with Israel.

The charge sheet, supplied

mite and grenades.

AMMAN (AP) - The State al possession of arms and Security Court Saturday opened the trial of 25 Muslim extremists accused of plotting and carrying out terrorist attacks aimed at destabilising the country, disrupting Arab-Israeli peacemaking and attacking American and Israeli interests in the region.

A seven-member defence team argued that the nonjury, three-judge tribunal had no jurisdiction over the case, which involves an alleged clandestine group comprised of former volunteers who fought alongside Muslim guerrillas against the Soviet occupation of Afgha-

Other defence remarks and minutes of the hearing at the State Security Court could not be published on orders from Hafez Amin, an army colonel, who presided over the two-hour session.

The hearing was later adjourned until Sunday, when Prosecutor-General Mohammad Obeidat was to respond to defence arguments and read out a charge sheet offi-cially arraigning the defendants.

The 25 men were listed in an indictment drawn up by the prosecutor five months after their detention on Feb. 8. However, under Jordanian law, an indictment is not considered official until it is read aloud in court.

According to the indictment, the 25 men belonged to a clandestine group nick-named the "Arab Afghans" that sought to topple existing regimes and establish an Islamic caliphate based purely on Muslim law.

It accused the men of illeg-

NEWS IN BRIEF

League turns down Clinton call to lift boycott

CAIRO (AFP) - The Arab League on Saturday turned

down a call from U.S. President Bill Clinton for an end to

its economic boycott of Israel, saying the Jewish state must

first withdraw from occupied Arab land. An end to the

boycott is "linked to assurances of progress on the Syrian

and Lebanese tracks (of the peace process), and an end to

the Israeli occupation of Arab lands occupied in 1967," said

the league's secretary-general, Esmat Abdul Meguid. The

secretary-general, quoted by the London-based Arabic

newspaper Al Hayat, said it was too early to consider lifting

the embargo in force since Israel was created in 1948. Arab

states are waiting for "a just and comprehensive peace" in

the Middle East, he said. Speaking to a Chicago gathering of the Jewish organisation B'nai B'rith, Mr. Clinton on Wednesday called the Arab economic boycott a "relic of a

Arafat to chair PECDAR meeting in Cairo

CAIRO (AFP) - Palestine Liberation Organisation

(PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat is to chair a meeting of the

Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Re-

construction (PECDAR) in Cairo on Tuesday, a PLO

official said here Saturday. The meeting is to judge how much money the Palestinian National Authority needs to

assume its new civilian duties in the West Bank, said

Mohammad Sobeih, the Palestinian representative to the

Arab League. PECDAR was set up last October to channel

international aid for Palestinian self-rule, which was

launched in the Gaza Strip and Jericho on May 4. "During its two-day meeting, PECDAR will start to evaluate the

needs of the Palestinian authority in the light of the transfer of civilian powers on the ground in the West Bank," Mr.

Sobeth said. "PECDAR will also discuss the expected

position of donor countries, which will meet on Sept. 9 in

Paris." Israel and the PLO are to make a joint appeal for

funds at the Paris meeting, after signing an accord on the

Barbie dolls sacreligious — Kuwaiti cleric

KUWAIT (AP) — A senior Muslim cleric has declared

transfer of civilian powers last Wednesday in Cairo.

bygone era" that "cannot possibly be justified."

blast probe is turned inwards

BUENOS AIRES (Agencies) — Argentine officials are focusing their investigation into the deadly bombing of a Jewish community centre on local groups after backing down from accusations that Iran masterminded the

Vice Foreign Minister Fernando Petrella said Friday the investigation "won't be calm or quick.'

Argentina's attorney general said Wednesday there was not enough evidence to question Iranian diplomats named in a federal udge's report on the July 18 bombing that killed nearly 100 people.

The abrupt switch in the investigation's focus has been embarrassing for the govern-ment of President Carlos Menem, who earlier this month said there was some evidence Iran was involved. Mr. Menem and cabinet ministers openly speculated about breaking off ties with

Iran denies any involvement in the attack, and relations between Argentina and Iran are severely strained. Both countries have recalled their ambassadors for con-

The Israeli ambassador to Argentina, Itzhak Aviran, maintains that Tehranbacked extremists are responsible for both the July bombing and a 1992 attack on the Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires that killed 29 people. But he said those responsible got help from within Argentina.

An attack of this kind can't be done without local logistical support," Mr. Aviran told the Associated Press. "It's essential to determine the infrastructure of this local

help."
Mr. Aviran said the fact that investigators are nearly certain a suicide driver in the July attack set off the bomb indicates it was carried out by Iran-backed fundamentalists.

But he said he does not have enough evidence to blame any specific group.

Nearly 20 people have been held for questioning since the bombing, but only Argentine Carlos Telleldin is still in custody. Mr. Telleldin 33, is believed to be the last owner of the van used in the bombing, but is not accused of participating in or having knowledge of the bombing.

Israel has threatened to wipe out those responsible for the Buenos Aires blast without taking any action and has called for international solidarity against "Islamic terrorism" without achieving

"Everything indicates that the attack on July 18 against the Jewish community centre in Buenos Aires was ordered by Iran and carried out by the Lebanese fundamentalists of Hizbollah," said Yigal Karmon, former government advisor on "terrorism."



King Hussein received at the Royal Court on rial property and support of Jordan's en-Saturday Arpad Bogsch, director general of deavours to enhance democracy, freedom and the World Intellectual Property Organisation political pluralism. He described the Kingdom (WIPO), and reviewed the organisation's as serving as a model for the rest of the objectives and programmes. Mr. Bogsch countries in the region (See related story on voiced the organisation's appreciation of Jor- page 3)

Yemeni president assures southern party of its role

SANAA (AP) — President Ali Abdullah Saleh has told southern socialist leaders. whose forces were defeated in Yemen's two-month civil war, that the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) still has a role to play in the country, one of the leaders said Saturday.

But what that role will be will depend on constitutional changes planned by Mr. Saleh and how successful the socialists are in pulling their fragmented party together and charting its political course in the aftermath of the two-month war that ended

July 7.
"The president affirmed to us his conviction about the role that the Yemen Socialist Party bloc should play within parliament," Yehya Mansour Abu Asbou, a member of the party's central committee, said Saturday after an eighthour meeting Friday with Mr. Saleh.

Sixteen party leaders, including Secretary-General Ali Salem Al Beidh, who fled the country after their forces were defeated by Mr. Saleh's northern army are wanted to stand trial for treason for their abortive bid to secede from the 1990 union of North and South Yemen during the

Senior socialists still in Yemen say they are waiting for YSP leaders who are not on the wanted list to return home and help convene a termine the party's future. If that does not happen, they plan to hold an assembly early next month. Party members say they want to be part of the opposition bloc.

which would exclude them from the government. Mr. Abu Asbou told the Associated Press after Friday's meeting: "The president wished us success at our September meeting."

Friday's meeting was also attended by 34 socialist members of parliament, including senior party leaders like Mr. Abu Asbou, who did not flee abroad when the secessionists were crushed.

Mr. Beidh, the former vice-president who led the secessionist forces and was president of the short-lived breakaway state, is holed up in neighbouring Oman.

He has yet to make any public comment about his plans. But his hosts have told Sanaa that he has promised

to give up politics.
Others like deputy party
Secretary-General Salem Saleh Mohammad, former Prime Minister Haidar Al Attas, and former Defence Minister Haithem Qassem are still in exile in neighbouring Saudi Arabia. Mr. Mohammad is not on the wanted list.

Although officials have said that military trials of the wanted 16 would be held in absentia, there has been no indication that these are immiment.

The socialists won 56 of the 301 seats in the unified state's parliament in April 1993 elections. Mr. Saleh's General Congress Party (GPC) took 122 and the tribalist and Islamic Al Islah party won 63.

The rest were held by opposition independents, while the three main parties formed a coalition govern-

Mr. Saleh has been taking his time forming a new gov-ernment after the socialists who were in his pre-war cabinet fled after their de-

The northern-based Islah. which consolidated its politic-Saleh during the war, is pressing for Mr. Saleh to dump the socialists from government and to increase its own representation in the

However, Mr. Saleh appeared to be making a real effort to rehabilitate the socialists, a task made easier by Mr. Beidh's exile, while cementing his own grip on the country he reunited by military force.

The government has reiected a statement issued by exiled members in Damascus earlier this month in which they sought to secure the return of exiles by condemning the secessionist movement and calling for political

reforms pledged before the war erupted May 4. Government leaders have stressed that the rehabilita-

tion of the party depends on removal of the old leadership under Mr. Beidh.

Congress party sources said Mr. Saleh has postponed forming a new cabinet until he introduces amendments to the 1990 constitution when parliament reconvenes within a month after its summer

These are primarily aimed at changing the presidential council whose five members are elected by parliament and who then choose the country's leader.

Mr. Saleh wants partiament to be responsible for directly electing only the president and vice president.

Urgent aid needed

The civil war in Yemen has left hundreds of thousands of people without proper water, food or medicines, the U.N. said Friday.

"The military operation has thrown the country 20 years back," said Awni Al Ani, U.N. coordinator in Sanaa and a member of a U.N. interagency mission, which is appealing for \$21 million to provide urgent humanitarian aid over the next six months.

"Everything has been looted, you go into a museum The schools and hospitals have been stripped bare," he

The two-month armed conflict wrecked water and electricity networks, Mr. Ani said. Hundreds of thousands of land mines have been laid around strategic sites, along electricity lines, water pipes and in urban areas as well. preventing thousand of people from returning to work.

The fighting has caused an estimated \$3 billion of damage and left some 375,000 people needing emergency food and water, the U.N. mission said.

Shops have closed and the serious water shortage has led to fatal diseases.

8 killed in battle in south

ASSIUT (Agencies) — A police colonel and five men thought to be Muslim militants were shot dead in a battle on Saturday near the south Egyptian town of Sohag. One policeman was wounded, the Interior Ministry said.

Egypt

The officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Hosni Hussein, 40. was the most senior policemen killed in Egypt since April 20, when militants shot dead a brigadier in the southern city of Assiut. Hussein and a force of

policemen had gone to a cemetery area near the village of Salamoun, in Sohag province about 370 kilometres south of Cairo, to arrest the militants.

The militants opened fire, killing the colonel in the early stages of the battle, security sources said. The sources said four policemen were seriously wounded but an Interior Ministry statement later mentioned only one.

Police killed five of the militants and found they were carrying one automatic rifle, four pistols and some

Some sources said the battle lasted three hours from 8.30 a.m., others said that it began at 3 a.m. and went on till noon.

The Interior Ministry described the militants as "terrorists" - its usual term for members of the Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah (Islamic Group) the main militant organisation fighting the Egyptian government.

It also gave a list of operations for which two of them were wanted.

It said one, Abderrahim Abbas Zaki, had helped kill seven policemen, including a major-general and a lieutenant-colonel, while the other, Khaled Abbas Suleiman, had organised bombings and assassinations.
The attack on Saturday

was the third in two days by gunmen thought to be members of the Gamaa, which is fighting to overthrow the government and set up a strict Islamic state.

The Gamaa said one of its units was responsible for an attack on a tourist bus in which gunmen killed a Spanish boy and seriously wounded his father. Two other Spanish tourists, one of them the boy's mother, and an Egyptian guide were also in-

The shootings marked a new stage of its campaign against the "heretic Egyptian regime," it warned.

Pablo Usan Calvo became the first holidaymaker to be killed by militants in almost six months when four gunmen ambushed a mini-bus carrying 11 Spaniards near

Clintons back on Martha's Vineyard

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EDGARTOWN, Mass. (AP) - Fresh off a hard-fought victory on the crime bill, President Bill Clinton traded suits for plaid and rushed off to chic and serene Martha's Vineyard to begin his delayed family vacation. Air Force One brought the Clintons and their entourage to the island off the Massachusens coast shortly before 9 p.m. local time. A boisterous and friendly crowd of at least 300 was on hand in the cool breeze to greet them. Thanks for the crime bill, Bill" read one sign as the president stopped to shake hands and talk with people before being taken to the Oyster Pond estate owned by Richard Friedman, a Boston developer. Democratic fundraiser and Clinton friend. The president plans to stay on Martha's Vineyard until a few days after Labour Day when he will return to Washington. Mr. Clinton looked a bit tired and redfaced upon his arrival, but he was clearly invigorated boarding the DC-9 in muggy Washington two hours earlier. Dressed in a plaid shirt, jeans and boots, he had a skip in his step, snapping his fingers and bouncing from foot to foot as first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton found her seat. Mr. Clinton decided to return to Martha's Vineyard because he had. such a relaxing time there last summer. "He filled his day up with sitting on the porch and reading, and horseback riding with Chelsea and an occasional jog and evenings out," recalled press secretary Dee Dee Myers. "He very much looks forward to trying to have the same kind of schedule this year."

Sarajevo holds dance celebration

SARAJEVO (AP) -

Saraievans rejoiced in the freedom of their spirit with the first folk festival of the 28-month siege of their city.
"This is another way for us to fight and resist," said Deputy Mayor Ante Zelic as about a dozen troupes of brightly clad dancers kicked off a two-day celebration of traditional Balkan dancing. "Nothing can destroy our love of everything in Sarajevo," he told the opening ceremony in the National Theatre, the focal point of Sarajevo's varied theatre and musical life before the war. Just as the brightly coloured plants adorning burned-out balconies symbolise the Sarajevans' refusal to be bombed out of their homes. so the festival stands testimony to their determination to keep up their morale. This is something from our souls," said Sanela Mandic, a member of the First National Folklore Ensemble. "We have been dancing for years and we continued to risk our lives to go to rehearsals during the shelling," said the 19-year-old English student, wearing a long bright orange skirt and golden sequins in her hair. The dancers and musicians. performing ancient Bosnian love songs and exotic Balkan melodies, aim to perform on streets throughout the city. The event is the first of its kind since the war started in April 1992. Serbs have been forced to pull back heavy weapons from around the battered capital and stop the random sniping that terrorised inhabitants. The government esti-mates 10,000 people have been killed in Sarajevo alone during the war.

Reuters.

Aziz to push again for sanctions end UNITED NATIONS (Agenheads the Arab Democratic

cies) — Iraqi Deputy Premier Tareg Aziz is to arrive here Sept. 10 to push again for an end to an international oil embargo against his country. diplomatic sources said Friday.

His arrival coincides with preparations for a new debate in the U.N. Security Council on the sanctions against Iraq scheduled for Sept. 14-15.

The United States has stated that the oil embargo slapped on Iraq following its 1991 defeat in the Gulf war was to be lifted only if Iraq recognised the sovereignty of

There were unconfirmed reports, however, that Israel had entered into talks with Iraq on a possible easing of the embargo in exchange for support of the peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO).

An Arab member of Israel's parliament says he hopes to lead an Arab-Ísraeli delegation to Baghdad in an unprecedented trip aimed at drawing Iraq into the Middle East peace process, the Mideast Mirror newsletter

has reported. Abdul Wahab Darawsheh told the newsletter that he has requested a meeting with Iraq's U.N. ambassador, Nizar Hamdoun and expects

a positive reply. Mr. Darawsheh. who

Party in Israel, spoke to the newsletter by telephone from Washington on Wednesday. He headed a 57-strong Israeli-Arab delegation to

Syria in a ground-breaking visit in March to offer condolences to President Hafez Al Assad on the death of his eldest son Basel. But he said the proposed

trip to Baghdad would be made "in the light of political developments to highlight Iraq's importance for the peace process and the need to lift the U.N. embargo." In Rabat, Arab diplomatic

sources said Mr. Aziz had met with Israeli officials during a recent visit to Morocco. Iraq is seeking a dialogue with Israel through Morocco. with the hopes of establishing diplomatic relations with the Jewish state, which then could pressure Washington into dropping the sanctions against Baghdad, said the sources, who, would not be further identified.

- No other details were given. Mr. Aziz visited Morocco Aug. 14-18.

Mr. Darawsheh's initiative comes amid persistent reports of secret contacts between Iraqi and Israeli officials, chiefly in New York, in which Baghdad seeks to make peace with Israel in return for the lifting of the sanctions imposed after its invaded Kuwait in 1990. These reports have been

Tareq Aziz denied by both sides.

Mr. Darawsheh said he hopes to lead a delegation of around 10 prominent Israeli Arabs and a similar number of Israeli peace activists of Middle Eastern origin, mainly Iraq, the newsletter said. It said Mr. Darawsheh

listed three main objectives: Expressing support for lifting the U.N. trade and oil embargo. - Seeking to involve Iraq

in the Arab-Israeli peace process in view of Iraq's economic, technological and demographic potential, and the positive impact Iraq's integration into the peace process would have.

 Enabling the Israelis of Iraqi origin to check the conditions of trag's Jewish community. He estimated 3,000 Jews remain in Iraq and said the indications were that they were "well-treated and enjoy the personal care of President Saddam Hussein.

Kuwait presses for sex segregation at schools KUWAIT (R) - Kuwait is

pressing foreign private schools, which are attracting increasing numbers of Kuwaiti children, to segregate pupils by sex along Islamic lines, a government minister was quoted on Saturday as saying. "The Ministry of Educa-

tion is currently encouraging these schools to segregate sexes in senior classes, intermediate and high school levels," the English-language Arab Times quoted Cabinet Affairs Minister Abdul Aziz Al Dakhil as saying. It said Mr. Dakhil made

the statement in a written answer to a parliamentary question. Co-education is barred at

secondary and higher levels at state and private Arabiclanguage schools but there is no prohibition about mixing the sexes at elementary and kindergarten levels or at most university faculties.

A handful of coeducational schools catering for expatriate children and teaching primarily in European languages have become increasingly popular with Kuwaiti families. The foreign schools are required to teach Arabic and Islamic studies.

"Many Kuwaitis had. started enrolling their children in foreign language schools," Mr. Dakhil was quoted as saying. He did not

Teachers say Kuwaiti en-

rolment in the foreign schools rose sharply after the emi-rate's 1991 Gulf war libera-

> Meanwhile, an Islamist student leader said she was campaigning for the segregation of teaching in all facul-ties at Kuwait University recause of pressure for the move from women students, the English-language Kuwait Times reported. "We have not left any

tion from Iraqi occupation.

stone unturned while campaigning last semester for segregating boys and girls not only in the faculty of arts but also in the whole university. the newspaper quoted Khali-da Al Silahi as saying. Ms. Silahi is vice-president

of the National Union of Kuwaiti Students, controlled by the Islamist Al Itilafiya movement at the university where only the Islamic studies faculties was segregated until the arts faculty followed Suit. She said she was "imm-

mensely satisfied" with the university's decision to introduce segregation of men and women students from Sept. 24 in the arts faculty. Faculty Dean Abdullah Al

Mahanna said the faculty at Shweikh area would become all-male for a trial period of several months. Women students, who make up twothirds of the faculty's student roll, would be moved to another campus in the Keifan

Hermitage Museum in row over Van Gogh work

Petersburg's Hermitage Art Museum said it would not exhibit a Van Gogh from its collection unless newspapers stopped printing reports that the painting was a fake. Museum Director Mikhail Piotrovsky said a U.S. confidence trickster had told British auction houses earlier this year he owned "White House At Night," painted by Dutch impressionist Vincent Van Gogh late last century. But the man disappeared when the Hermitage said the original was in its own collection and accused him of peddling a fake. "I'm not even going to discuss the authenticity question because it is so absurd," Mr. Piotrovsky told

ST PETERSBURG (R) -St

barbie dolls sacreligious and is urging Kuwaitis not to buy them for their children. The independent Al Qabas daily said Saturday the cleric, khaled Al Mathkour, made the declaration in response to a question about the dolls during a popular television programme broadcast Friday. The newspaper quoted Sheikh Mathkour as saying Muslims cannot buy barbies because they look like grown-up women and have nothing to do with childhood. The sheikh was out of town Saturday and could not be reached for comment. He is the head of a committee formed by the

emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, to implement Islamic law, in Kuwait. The newspaper quoted Sheikh Mathkour as saying the dolls were shaped like statues that are forbidden by Islam. The emir has recently turned down a parliamentary request to amend the constitution and make Islam the sole source of legislation. He said the committee will see to it that full implementation of Sharia was carried out through "careful and deep" studies. The oil-rich emirate has witnessed a return to Islamic teachings after the August 1990 Iraqi invasion and the Gulf war in which it was liberated seven months later. Muslim fundamentalists hold 19 of the 50 seats in the parliament that was reinstated in 1992 after being suspended for six years.

Cyprus deports 12 Russian suspects

NICOSIA (AP) - Twelve Russians suspected of involvement in mafia-style activities against Russian businessmen on Cyprus have been deported, police announced Saturday amid fears that Russian mobsters are moving onto this island business centre. Police said their case against the men fell apart after the Russians allegedly threatened changed their minds about testifying against them in court. As the men were being escorted onto airliners bound for Russia late Friday, another Russian was arrested in the south coast port city of Limassol. Police said Alexander Victorovic was detained after a pistol was discovered in his hotel room. It was not known whether he was linked to the men who were deported. They were arrested Aug. 19 in the resort city of Larnaca, also on the south coast, after Russian businessmen living on the island claimed that members of the group had demanded protection money from them, threatening to kill their families.